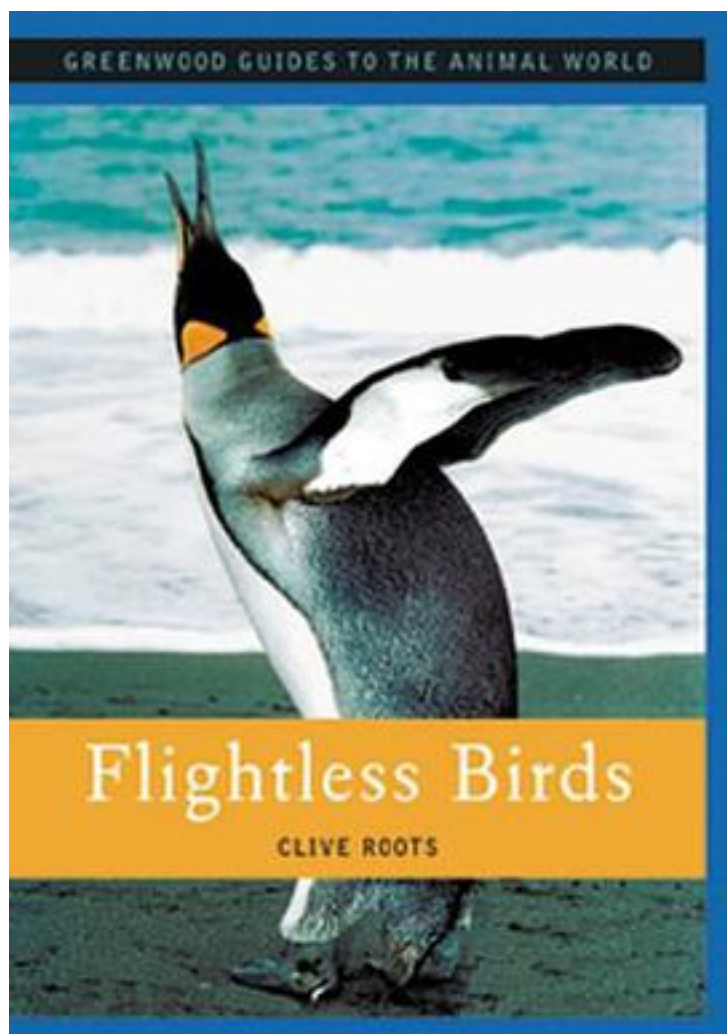


Flightless Birds



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出版者:Greenwood

出版时间:2006-9-30

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9780313335457

We share the earth with a wide variety of animal species, each of which brings

something special to the diversity of the planet. By knowing more about how animals behave and live, we gain a greater understanding of how life evolved and the importance of biodiversity. This volume provides a complete guide to those birds that have evolved a trait that would seem to harm their ability to survive - flightlessness. "Flightless Birds" covers the loss of flight in birds, both permanently after years of evolution, and temporarily as a result of unusual moulting behaviour, and those species that are in various stages of losing their flight. The book provides a thorough guide, perfect for understanding the behaviour and biodiversity of a fascinating and unusual group of animals. "Flightless Birds" includes sections on the major groups of flightless birds: those whose ancient ancestors were on the continents when they broke away millions of years ago, and who survived despite competing with mammals; birds that were marooned on islands in the ocean, where food was plentiful and predators absent; penguins, which evolved alongside seas teeming with food and had no need to fly, and the special case of New Zealand's many flightless species which evolved in a predator-free paradise but could not cope with the settlers and their alien animals; and the many species which have become extinct within historic times. Beautifully illustrated, "Flightless Birds" provides copious material for understanding these unusual animals.

作者介绍:

CLIVE ROOTS has been a zoo director for many years. He has travelled the world collecting live animals for zoo conservation programmes. He has acted as a planning and design consultant for numerous zoological gardens and related projects around the world, and has written many books on zoo and natural history subjects.

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