

HISTORY



Roundtable est. 2017

July's Topic: Animal History

Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 28th, 2026 at 6:30pm

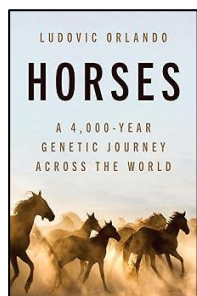
Register at www.greenwoodlibrary.us or by calling 317-881-1953.

More info and handout at www.greenwoodlibrary.us/historyroundtable.

Read. Watch. Listen. Discuss. Read any non-fiction book, watch a documentary, and/or listen to a podcast pertaining to **Animal History**. Once you've read/watched/listened to the item, come to the roundtable prepared to summarize your book/video/podcast for all the participants. Possible resources include (but are not limited to)

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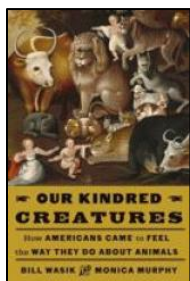
Books:



[Horses: A 4,000-Year Genetic Journey Across the World](#) by Ludovic Orlando – NONFICTION ANIMALS FARM HORSES Orlando;

Horses takes you behind the scenes of this ambitious genealogical investigation, revealing how he and an international team of scientists discovered the elusive origins of modern horses.

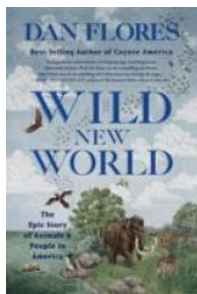
Along the way, he shows how the domestication of the horse changed the trajectory of civilization—with benefits and unforeseen consequences for the animals themselves.



[Our Kindred Creatures: How Americans Came to feel the way they do about Animals](#) by Bill Wasik – NONFICTION ANIMALS Wasik; [eAudio via Libby](#)*

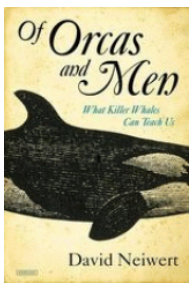
Over just a few decades at the end of the nineteenth century, the United States underwent a moral revolution on behalf of animals. Before the Civil War, animals' suffering had rarely been discussed; horses pulling carriages and carts were routinely beaten in public view, and dogs were pitted against each other for entertainment and gambling. But in 1866, a group of activists began a dramatic campaign to change the nation's laws and norms, and by the century's end, most Americans had adopted a very different way of thinking and feeling about the animals in

their midst.



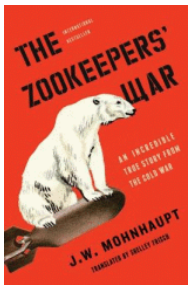
[Wild New World: The Epic Story of Animals and People in America](#) by Dan Flores – NONFICTION ANIMALS Flores; [eBook](#) and [eAudio](#) via Libby*; [eAudio via Hoopla](#)*

In thrilling narrative style, informed by genomic science, evolutionary biology, and environmental history, Flores celebrates the astonishing bestiary that arose on our continent and introduces the complex human cultures and individuals who hastened its eradication, studied America's animals, and moved heaven and earth to rescue them. Eons in scope and continental in scale, *Wild New World* is a sweeping yet intimate Big History of the animal-human story in America.



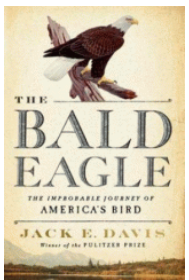
[Of Orcas and Men: What Killer Whales Can Teach Us](#) by David Neiwert – NONFICTION ANIMALS AQUATIC Neiwert; [eBook](#) and [eAudio](#) via Hoopla*

Orcas are one of Earth's most intelligent animals. Benign and gentle, with their own languages and cultures, orcas' amazing capacity for long-term memory and, arguably, compassion, makes the ugly story of the captive-orca industry especially damning. In the tradition of Barry Lopez's classic *Of Wolves and Men*, David Neiwert's book is a powerful tribute to one of the animal kingdom's most remarkable members.



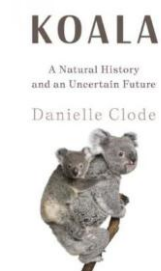
[The Zookeepers' War: An Incredible True Story from the Cold War](#) by J.W. Brands – NONFICTION HISTORY WARS AMERICAN REVOLUTION Brands; [eAudio via Libby](#)* & [eAudio via Hoopla](#)*

Berlin's two zoos in East and West quickly became symbols of the divided city's two halves. And so no one was terribly surprised when the head zookeepers on either side started an animal arms race: rather than stockpiling nuclear warheads, they competed to have the most pandas and hippos. Eventually, politicians on both side of the Wall became convinced that if their zoo were proved to be inferior, then that would mean their country's whole ideology was too. A quirky piece of Cold War history unlike anything you've heard before, *The Zookeepers' War* is an epic tale of desperate rivalries, human follies, and an animal-mad city in which zookeeping became a way of continuing politics by other means.



[The Bald Eagle: The Improbable Journey of America's Bird](#) by Jack E. Davis – NONFICTION ANIMALS BIRDS Davis; [eAudio via Libby](#)*

Filled with spectacular stories of Founding Fathers, rapacious hunters, heroic bird rescuers, and the lives of bald eagles themselves—monogamous creatures, considered among the animal world's finest parents—*The Bald Eagle* is a much-awaited cultural and natural history that demonstrates how this bird's wondrous journey may provide inspiration today, as we grapple with environmental peril on a larger scale.



[Koala: A Natural History and an Uncertain Future](#) by Danielle Clode – NONFICTION HISTORY ANIMALS MAMMALS Clode

A biologist takes us into the still mysterious world of koalas, from their marsupial ancestors to current threats to their existence. Koalas are one of the most beloved animals, but despite their celebrity, we are just learning much about their nature and history. Blending evolutionary biology, natural history, and ecology, biologist Danielle Clode tells us the story of these amazing marsupials. She looks at fossils of ancestral giant koalas three times modern koalas' size and explains why they are the lone survivor of a once diverse family tree. Clode takes us close to these extraordinary creatures and speaks to why and how we need to save them.

Podcasts:



When We Talk About Animals: [Episode 46 – Paleobiologist Thomas Halliday on the Animals of Ancient Worlds](#) by Yale University

A Yale University podcast devoted to exploring the big questions animals raise about what it means to be human.



15 Minute History: [Episode 53 – Cats and Dogs in History](#) with Joan Neuberger, Professor of History, University of Texas at Austin

Featuring guest Francesca Consagra, curator of the exhibition "In the Company of Cats and Dogs," we consider some of the inherent personalities and temperaments of these animals as well as those imposed or projected by humans onto them. Throughout history, these animals have been viewed and represented as family members, hunters of prey, strays, and as figures and symbols in mythological, religious, political, and moral images.