

Booklist

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Wild Cats: Past and Present.

Becker, John E. (Author)

Mar 2008. 80 p. Darby Creek, hardcover, \$18.95. (9781581960525). 599.75.

With an eye-catching jacket, spacious page design, and plenty of color photos, this large-format book will draw browsers who just want to look at the pictures; but the well-researched text has plenty to offer. Becker provides an informative introduction to wild cats, including an account of their ancient ancestors, an overview of the family Felidae and its subdivisions, accounts of wild cats alive in the world today, and, woven throughout, discussions of the endangered status of many species. The last chapter includes detailed information on the work of several wild-cat conservation groups and at the Cincinnati Zoo. Clearly written and well organized, the text is enhanced by many sidebars, maps, photos, and paintings. Hallett, an artist specializing in prehistoric subjects, contributes a number of fine pictures of extinct animals. Lengthy lists of books, articles, interviews, and Web sites are appended. Useful for students researching specific wild cats and rewarding for children intrigued by wildlife.

— *Carolyn Phelan*