

Preface

Every living creature has an overwhelming desire to breed / reproduce under conducive environmental conditions but fascinatingly, the genders are profoundly at odds concerning with whom they mate and the amount of efforts they put into raising their progeny / offspring's. The sexual activities are either restricted to a particular season (seasonal breeders) or spread over a considerable period of time in an year and qualify to be called continuous breeders. This book is an attempt to review and describe in details the ecological aspects and reproductive behavioural patterns displayed by diverse organism ranging from the pseudocoelomic through true coelomic forms.

Sex in the natural world is aggressive, competitive and sometimes lethal. The opportunities created by sex differ for males and females. This volume although, is mainly devoted to ecological and reproductive traits in various animals but also includes their general introductions and descriptive accounts, taxonomic richness and population density in details. The attention of researchers is also drawn towards the prevailing anthropogenic, pollutional and parasitic threats to the fishes, crocodiles and avifaunal elements confined to various / diverse habitats in India and abroad.

This volume is prepared by keeping in view the requirement of researches of various institutions and the undergraduate and post graduate students of several universities. Topics are addressed with terminology that is as simple as possible so that readers will not be impeded by arcane words but will be able to see what the phenomenon is without difficulty.

The present book (Volume IV) not only covers all the important topics that is required in a book, but also introduces the reader with latest developments and information in the field and inclusion of the topic: "*Computer in Wildlife: A Tool to Create a Communication with Birds*" is an attempt in this regard. There are 27 papers in two sections, 16 included under the head animal ecology and remaining 11 devoted to the section of animal reproduction, written by national and the international experts of the field and the treatment bears the seal of authority.

We hope that this volume of the book like the first three volumes, will be of great use to all the groups of individuals and organizations a few mentioned above. We welcome suggestions for further improvement of the future volumes of the book.

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