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Beolens, B., Watkins, M., and Grayson, M. (2009). Eponym dictionary of mammals. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press [book review]

Kevin McDonough
Northern Michigan University, kmcdonou@nmu.edu

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Beolens, Bo. The eponym dictionary of mammals, by Bo Beolens, Michael Watkins, and Michael Grayson. Johns Hopkins, 2009. 574p bibl afp ISBN 9780801893049 <<http://worldcatlibraries.org/wcpa/isbn/9780801893049>>, \$65.00 (reviewed in CHOICE May 2010).

Anyone who wonders about the identity of Thomson, as in Thomson's gazelle, or Steller, as in Steller sea lion, will find the answers here. Written by three independent scholars (Beolens and Watkins also wrote *Whose Bird?: Common Bird Names and the People They Commemorate*, CH, Jul'04, 41-6260), this new dictionary provides brief biographies of people whose names are included in mammal names, either common or scientific. Arrangement is alphabetical by name, yet not all entries refer to people. Forty-seven entries sound like people's names but are not. Readers will find names for six indigenous tribes, three fictional characters, eight biblical references, and 45 references to classical mythology, along with ten names for people that cannot be identified. Following a particular entry is a listing of animals named after that person, arranged in the order of the year in which the animals were described. Also provided in this list are common names, scientific names, names of the people who first described each species, and dates of the original descriptions. Alternative English and scientific names (when taxonomists are not in agreement) are featured as well. The biographies range from 50 to over 300 words, with well-known individuals (Theodore Roosevelt) receiving shorter entries because more is known and written about them in other sources. Over 1,300 named entries are provided, explaining the origins of more than 2,000 mammal species names. This is a unique resource for the curious. Summing Up: Recommended. All public and academic libraries; lower-level undergraduates and above, and general readers.

--K. P. McDonough, Northern Michigan University

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