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How Zoologists Organize Things: The Art of Classification [book review]

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This book presents a visual history of humans' pursuit to organize and explain animal diversity. Divided into four stages, bestiaries and encyclopedias were prevalent through the 12th century, connecting animal diversity to a Christian world view. The 18th century moved towards a more objective classification, emphasizing similarities and differences between species based on shared characteristics. Nineteenth century classification focused on changes over time, introducing the theory of natural selection and the ancientness of the earth that gave time for evolution to occur. Since 1900 an explosion of information has led to numerous specialized disciplines contributing to our understanding of animal complexity, including the role of genes, chromosomes, and genomes. Text is minimized in *How Zoologists Organize Things*, providing an overview of each stage and key scientists and their contributions. Small black and white and colored plates from historical manuscripts follow, and reinforce concepts mentioned previously. Although excellent, the plates could have more description to help readers reconcile theory. This book is highly recommended for general readers wanting a visual introduction to the classification of living species.