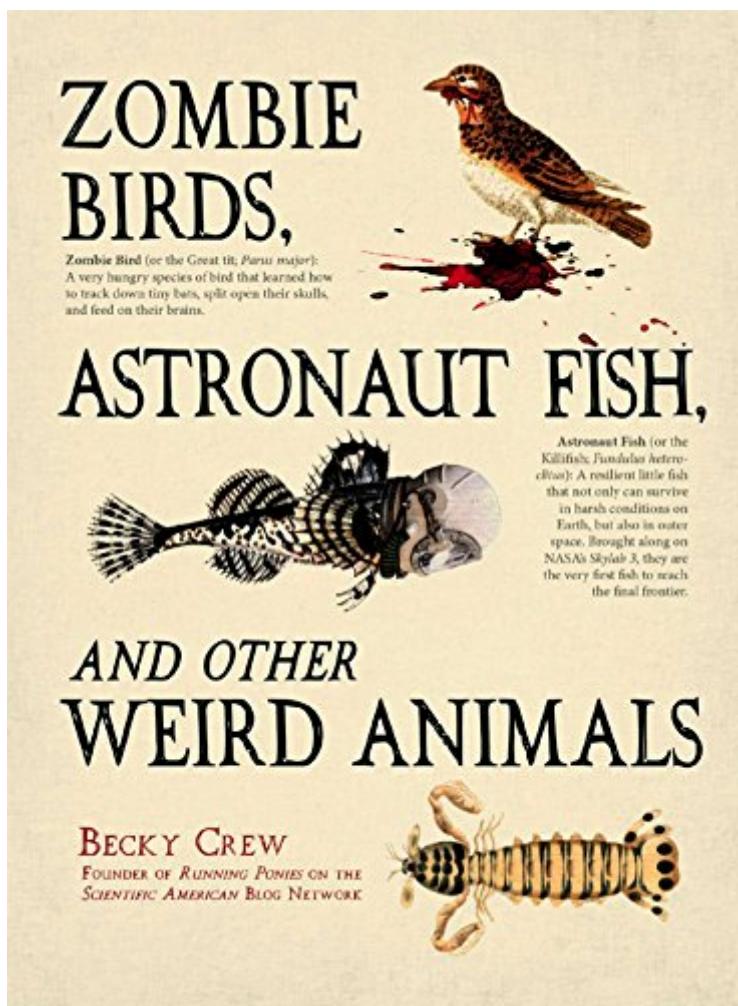


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# Zombie Birds, Astronaut Fish, And Other Weird Animals



## **Synopsis**

Take a walk on the weird side! Astronaut fish swimming in zero gravity? Fluffy little birds hungry for brains? Transformer butterflies morphing in midair? It's either a bad trip or one crazy safari. Becky Crew takes you on the latter by mixing serious scientific facts with lighthearted anthropomorphic stories. Each animal profile starts with a short, humorous day-in-the-life-of bit that leads into the real science of these really strange creatures. Becky keeps things fresh by mixing in her wit with the interesting facts. From naked mole rat reproduction to the Wolverine-style defenses of Cameroon's hairy frogs, Zombie Birds, Astronaut Fish, and Other Weird Animals packs enough information for one heck of a nature walk.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 1171 KB

Print Length: 242 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1440560269

Publisher: Adams Media (March 18, 2013)

Publication Date: March 18, 2013

Sold by: Simon and Schuster Digital Sales Inc

Language: English

ASIN: B00CFTFKH2

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #900,520 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #84

in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Hunting & Fishing #295 in Kindle Store >

Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Biological Sciences > Animals > Wildlife #381

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Reference > Trivia & Fun Facts > Curiosities & Wonders

## **Customer Reviews**

Not really saying anything that hasn't been said in the comments below. The stories, facts, and trivia are very interesting, but the vulgar (and at times outright obscene) language in the book make this unsuitable for the children who would otherwise be a major part of this book's audience. The author

seems to be under the impression that if she swears enough in the book, people will find it amusing and engaging. While I at any rate was not amused or engaged by it, and indeed I felt that it detracted from the otherwise very interesting stories that she was trying to tell.

Interesting read, I've done research on a few of the animals contained in the book, and factually its great. Humor was at times hit and miss for me but, that's just personal as my wife found it all quiet funny. Over all great book, interesting subject mater, and well written. I would definitely recommend picking this up for yourself or the amateur zoologist in your life.

a must read for all who love the weird, the wacky and the fascinating of all creature great and small. I can't wait for the next one!

Great book.

Thanks you!!

I don't know who her target audience is, but it is not your junior high kid who otherwise might be interested in zombie birds. Ms. Crew drops the "F" bomb in the introduction and throws at least one four-lettered surprise into each of the chapters I luckily previewed instead of handing it to my son to read. I had to get rid of it. I'm sorry, but this otherwise interesting book will not be welcome on my home library shelf.

I read about this book in Scientific American and it sounded intriguing. As a public school science teacher I hoped to learn some interesting facts and maybe even have some read aloud sections for my classes. The animals were indeed interesting, but the "anthropomorphic stories" were so full of profanity and laced with sexual references that there is NO WAY I'll be reading it to my students! Besides the potty humor, the informal style of the creative interludes was very off-putting. Some might find the casual hipster/modern valley girl/ slang talk style artsy or entertaining, but for me it simply was annoying. The premise had much potential. I'd like to see the work redone in a PG-13 version and with a more standard conversational style for the creative parts. I guess I should have checked out the authors blog before buying.

The core of each of the 50 entries (think blog posts) is an interesting, usually accurate, and

generally entertaining and educational short article. I'd give them a solid 4. However, interspersed with the articles are flights of fantasy that some might find amusing but I found simply a waste of paper. The first of these digressions, which also serves as the Introduction, unnecessarily drops the f-bomb, making the book unsuitable for school-age readers. On average it earns a 2. Re-print it with the paper-wasting and obscenity dropped and it would climb to a 4.

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