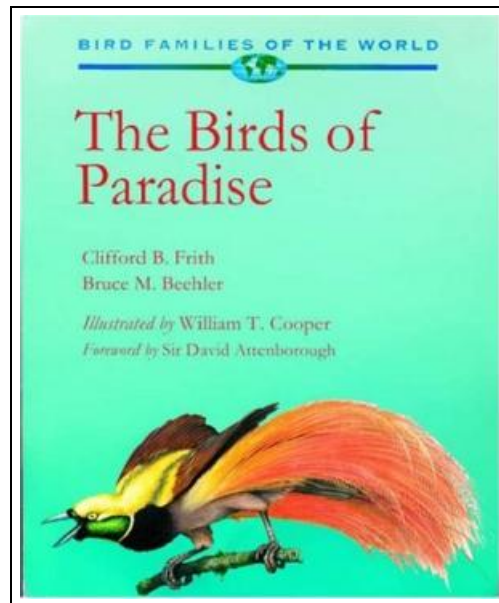


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Oxford University Press, New Delhi, India, 1998. Hard Cover. Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. First Edition. 'The first comprehensive overview of this dramatic group of birds.' BBC Wildlife 'an exhaustive summary of literally everything known about all 42 birds of paradise. I must also comment on Frith and Beehler's organizational skill, from which any would-be author could learn. Masses of details are rendered digestible. Questions for future research are highlighted throughout, making this book another treasure trove for student search of PhD theses topics.' Jared Diamond Nature 'this book will stimulate interest in the habits and conservation of these magnificent birds and the paradise in which they live.' World Birdwatch Birds of paradise have long played a central role in the mythologies, ceremonies, dress and dance of the peoples of New Guinea and its neighbouring islands. For the few centuries that these magnificent birds have been known outside of Australasia, their striking nuptial plumages and elaborate courtship rituals have captured the imagination of collectors, scientists, and naturalists throughout the world. The first part of the book provides a comprehensive and scientifically accurate overview of the biology, ecology, and history of the group, written so as to be interesting and accessible to the lay-reader as well as the scientist. The authors' intimate observations of the birds have enabled them to describe for the first time how the extravagant tails and plumage are used in courtship and mating as well as to describe their nesting biology, about which little has been written previously. The role of the birds of paradise in human culture and tradition is explored in chapter 7, and a final chapter discusses issues of conservation and threats to the survival of these unique and beautiful birds. The second part of the book consists of species accounts of the 42...



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