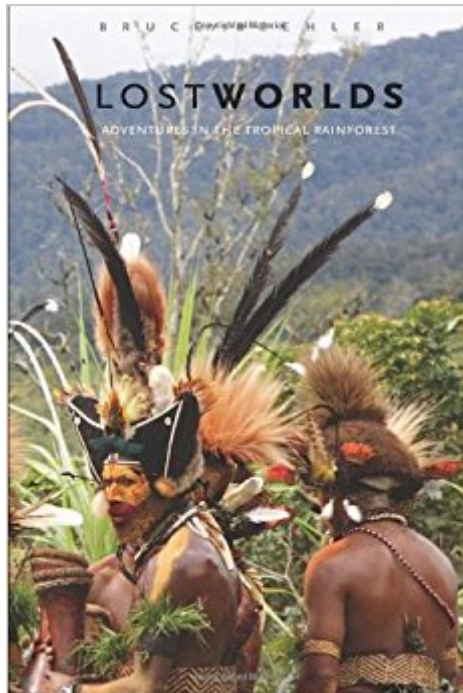




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# Lost Worlds: Adventures In The Tropical Rainforest



## Synopsis

Perhaps it is not possible to experience all the mysterious sounds, the unfamiliar smells, and the spectacular sights of a tropical rainforest without ever visiting one. But this exhilarating and honest book comes wondrously close to taking the reader on such a journey. Bruce M. Beehler, a widely traveled expert on birds and tropical ecology, recounts fascinating details from twelve field trips he has taken to the tropics over the past three decades. As a researcher, he brings to life the exotic rainforests and the people who inhabit them; as a conservationist, he makes a plea for better ways of managing rainforests—a resource that the world cannot do without. Drawing on his experiences in Papua New Guinea, India, Madagascar, Indonesia, the Philippines, Panama, and the Ivory Coast, Beehler describes the surprises, both pleasant and unpleasant, of doing science and conservation in the field. He explains the role that rainforests play in the lives of indigenous peoples and the crucial importance of understanding local cultures, customs, and politics. The author concludes with simple but tough solutions for maintaining rainforest health, expressing fervent hope that his great-grandchildren and others may one day also hear the rainforest whisper its secrets.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“This is a marvelous account of rain forest field biology and conservation. It captures the life of modern day conservation field biologists unlike any other book I know of.”  
—Thomas E. Lovejoy, The Heinz Center for Science, Economics and the

Environment (Thomas E. Lovejoy) "Bruce Beehler offers an excellent explanation of why tropical forests are important and how they are studied. Few scientists have worked in so many rain forests around the world."

•Roger Pasquier, Environmental Defense (Roger Pasquier) "I was riveted by this book. What E.O. Wilson conveys for the insect world, Bruce Beehler accomplishes for rainforest birds."

•Meg Lowman, author of *Life in the Treetops and It's a Jungle Up There* (Meg Lowman) "Bruce Beehler has devoted his life to studying and protecting the tropical forests of the world—from Panama to Papua New Guinea. In *Lost Worlds*, he writes about his adventures with uncommon wisdom and wit. The result is a fascinating mix of scientific discovery, autobiography, and environmental advocacy."

•David S. Wilcove, Professor of Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Public Affairs, Princeton University (David S. Wilcove) "[Beehler's] memoir vividly describes the forests and wildlife that are his passion while offering an unromantic view of how 'environmental carpetbaggers' like himself work—warts and all."

•Margaret Pizer, *Conservation Magazine* (Margaret Pizer *Conservation Magazine* 2008-07-01)

Bruce M. Beehler is senior research scientist in the Center for Applied Biodiversity Science at Conservation International. He is an internationally known ornithologist and leader of natural history expeditions, and his books include *The Birds of Paradise*, *Birds of New Guinea*, and *A Naturalist in New Guinea*.

Bruce Beehler, an ornithologist working for Conservation International, has written an interesting and very readable book of his experiences and insights into the conservation of tropical forests. He writes mostly of the forests outside of India, including southern and northern India, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Ivory Coast, Madagascar and Panama. This was a book that I found I didn't want to end as I was reading. I very much enjoyed his stories and comments ranging from observations of birds and wildlife to insights on conservation and concerns for the local people most impacted by parks and preserves. Beehler doesn't quite match the eloquence of say Alexander Skutch (*A Bird Watcher's Adventures in Tropical America*), but he does provide an enjoyable read, new thoughts on conservation, and inspiration to act to help protect and enjoy the biodiversity of the tropics.

Excellent book. *Lost Worlds*, adventures in the tropical rainforest does more than give a reader a in depth look of the ecology of a rainforest, it gives the reader insight to some of the socioeconomic

factors and other pressures that continue to threaten the existence of many of the rainforest today. From Panama to the Foja Mountains of the Island of New Guinea, this book gives description making the reader believe that they are right there experiencing the beauty of tropical rainforest firsthand.

This book is a fascinating account of Mr. Beehler's time in Papua New Guinea, told from the perspective of a scientist and conservationist. That being said, LOST WORLDS reads like an adventure yarn. So If you can't make it to the tropical rain forests yourself, this book is the next best thing to being there. Highly recommended for those who love being informed and transported all at one.

I can't find a copy of Mr Beeher's Birds of New Guinea for under \$500! At least this little paperback gives me a chance to get a peek into this man's passion. I've been to Panama and his accounts of there are spot on, so I trust that New Guinea will be likewise.

good

The author Bruce Beehler is vice president for the Melanesia and Pacific Islands programs at Conservation International. In Lost Worlds, he has written an extremely interesting account of rainforest field biology and conservation. He gives fascinating details of twelve field trips he has taken over the past three decades to Papua New Guinea, India, Madagascar, Indonesia, the Philippines, Panama, and the Ivory Coast. He is a well-known ornithologist, so most of his emphasis is on the bird populations in the places he visits. Mr. Beehler's writing style is fine, and his descriptions of the field trips are extremely interesting. The only areas where the book bogs down a touch are in his discussions of how we should be attempting to preserve rainforest areas and how to deal with indigenous populations. This subject admittedly is very important, but he addresses it an extremely dry manner. If you are interested in the natural world, you should enjoy Lost Worlds. The cover of the book by itself is reason enough to at least take a look.

For years I thought 'A Naturalist in New Guinea' by Bruce Beehler could not be topped. But "Lost Worlds" has done just that. I have longed for a book that would serve as a tour of these magnificent areas by great ornithologists and not only in a field guide fashion. Beehler takes us through New Guinea and the forests of Panama and India in a frank and approachable manner making the

experience seem very real. I felt like I was there. Having grown up in Panama and spent a lot of my life on Pipeline Road I felt instantly transported back there. I wish other great scientists of today would follow in Beehler's footsteps and relate their experiences in prose form and not only in field guide fashion. The positive effect on forest conservation and awareness could be furthered even more as these books could reach many audiences that may not otherwise be able to visit these places. Congratulations on an outstanding narrative.

Most readers know Bruce Beehler for his field guide type of books, *Birds of New Guinea*, etc. This is a whole different book. Part adventure story, part field biology and conservation. You learn as much about the native people of the various forests visited as you do the flora and fauna. For anyone who is fascinated by the world of birds, this is a must read. I've been a bird watcher and aviculturists for over 40 years and have an entire library of bird books. I'm very happy to add *Lost Worlds* to my collection. Dick S. Escondido, CA

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