

## Book Review

THE COMPLETE WHALE-WATCHING HANDBOOK: A GUIDE TO WHALES, DOLPHINS, AND PORPOISES OF THE WORLD. Ben Wilson and Angus Wilson. Voyageur Press, Stillwater, MN, 2006. ISBN 760325677, 288 pp.

*The Complete Whale-Watching Handbook* is a most welcome addition to any whale enthusiast's book collection and a must for anyone who has been bitten by the whale-watching bug. Referring to it as a handbook may be doing it an injustice as it is so much more. Packed with well-written and well-researched text, beautiful images, and really clear illustrations in the identification section, this book will be an invaluable resource for both the cetacean novice and enthusiast alike. One particular feature is the fact that the authors draw on the experiences of some well-known whale enthusiasts, researchers, and writers, and reading their personal accounts certainly adds to the handbook's appeal for this reader.

We live in a time when attractive "coffee table" type books and guides are two a penny, with it seems a plethora of whale and dolphin book launches every year. It wasn't always so. This surge in interest in these most photogenic of subjects makes it increasingly difficult for such tomes to stand out on the bookshelf, but this well-crafted book by Ben and Angus Wilson does indeed stand out and should be worthy of your attention.

Whether you're content with sitting up on your local cliff top, viewing the species most likely to be encountered around the British Isles, or whether you've "been there" and "done that" and now wish to broaden your horizons in terms of locations and species, then this book is brimming with advice. Well done to all involved.

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