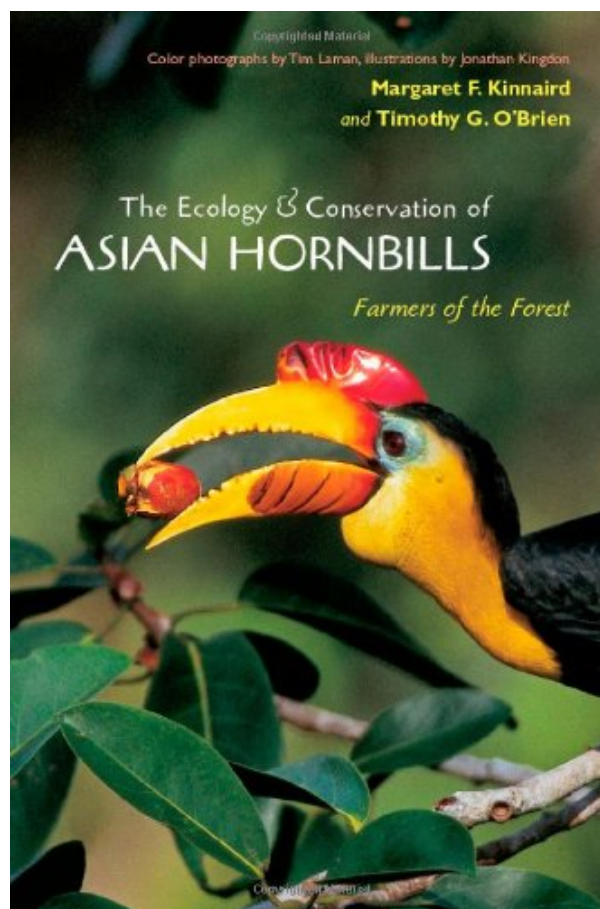
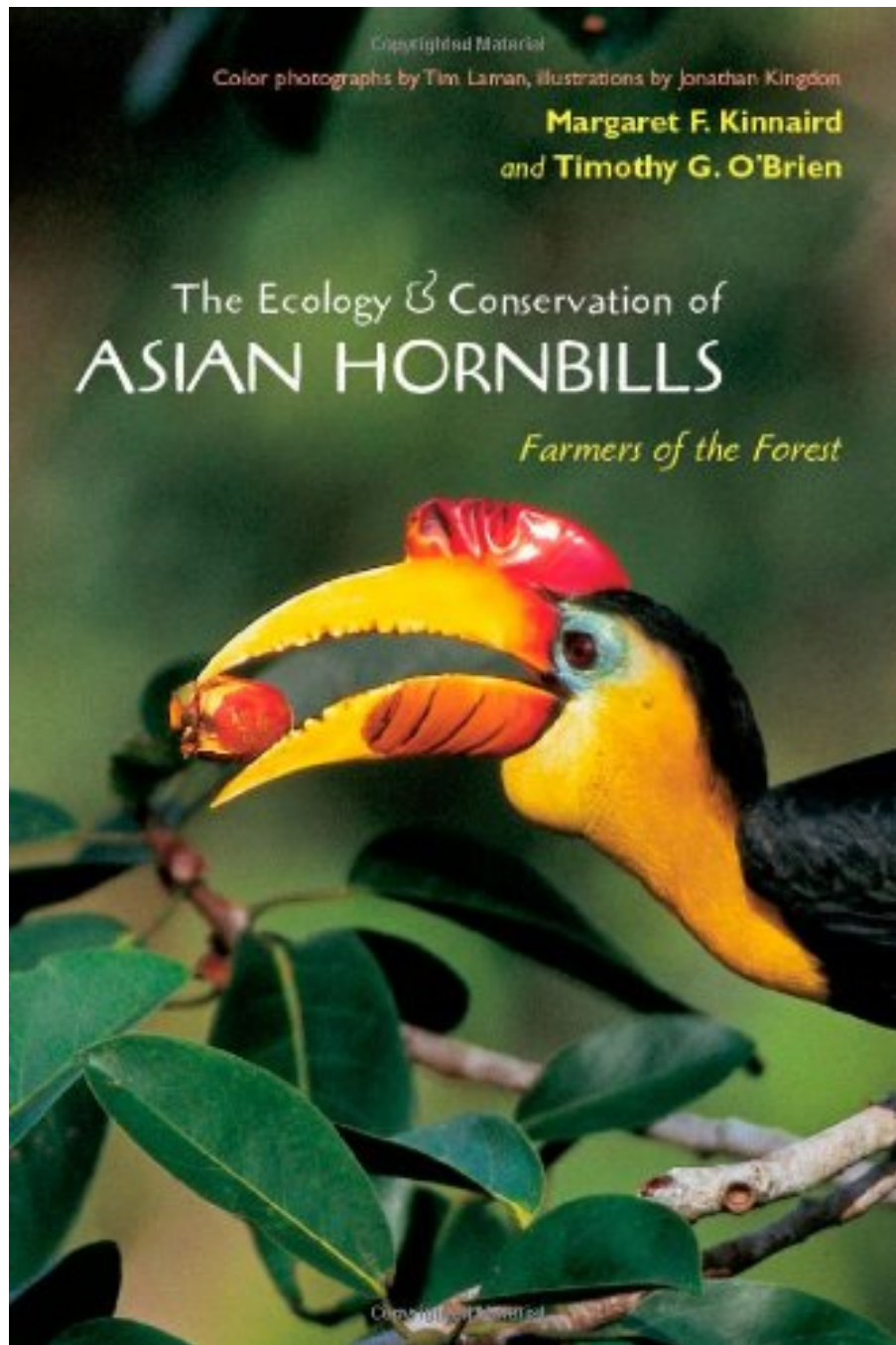


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## Review

“Margaret F. Kinnaird and Timothy O’Brien are premier tropical forest researchers, and their fieldwork on the hornbills has been a capstone to their careers to date. *The Ecology and Conservation of Asian Hornbills* will stand among the pantheon of natural history studies. It is a work that compares favorably with the best of Schaller or Terborgh.”

(Bruce Beehler, Conservation International)

“With their enormous decurved and brightly colored bills topped with ornamented casques, hornbills hold a special attraction for all of us—one of the few kinds of bird that everyone knows, revered by tribal peoples, sought after by birdwatchers, gasped at by visitors to zoos, used by several Asian states as symbols. Yet their vital ecological function, as seed-dispersers particularly of fig-trees (which are themselves crucial components of tropical forests), is barely appreciated and poorly understood. Here two long-standing experts on the Asian hornbills crystallize their experiences and knowledge into a gem of a book which examines the roles of hornbills in the health of the tropical forest environment and which pleads with passion and clarity for the conservation of both the birds and their habitat.”

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“Margaret Kinnaird and Timothy O’Brien deftly combine evolutionary biology, ecology, and conservation biology in this engaging and insightful study of Asia’s charismatic hornbills. Through the hornbills, we come to appreciate the diversity, complexity, and beauty of Asia’s tropical forests, and not a moment too soon, given how quickly those forests are being destroyed.”

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Hornbills are among the world's most distinct birds. Easily recognized by their oversized beaks adorned with large casques, they range from Africa to India and throughout Asia. One of the oldest bird orders, they have been known to mankind for millennia and loom large in the mythology of indigenous cultures of tropical Asia. In the past thirty years, ecologists have uncovered many fascinating aspects of hornbill biology, from their unique nest-sealing behavior to their roles as farmers of the forest.

Building on fourteen years of research, Margaret F. Kinnaird and Timothy G. O'Brien offer in *Ecology and Conservation of Asian Hornbills* the most up-to-date information on the evolution, reproduction, feeding ecology, and movement patterns of thirty-one species of Asian hornbills. The authors address questions of ecological functionality, ecosystem services, and keystone relationships, as well as the disturbing influence of forest loss and fragmentation on hornbills. Complemented by superb full-color images by renowned photographer Tim Laman that provide rare glimpses of hornbills in their native habitat and black-and-white illustrations by Jonathan Kingdon that highlight the intriguing aspects of hornbill behavior, *Ecology and Conservation of Asian Hornbills* will stand tall in the pantheon of natural history studies for years to come.

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A comprehensive account on Asian Hornbills

By Adrian Cerda Ardura

This is one of the best updated accounts on Asian Hornbills that I have seen lately. Taxonomy is reviewed briefly (but very accurately and explicit), with good and useful descriptions of the various genera and species, as well as current distribution, habitats, general biology of the group, ecology and their relevance as seed dispersers, foraging and other behaviour, and problems that the group faces for its survival. Additional information is provided in relation to the ecology of agaonid wasps, who co-evolved with figs, fruits that are an important food for hornbills. Interesting observations about biogeography and island biogeography of the different species is given as well. I really enjoyed it a lot!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

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By Peter Odekerken

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