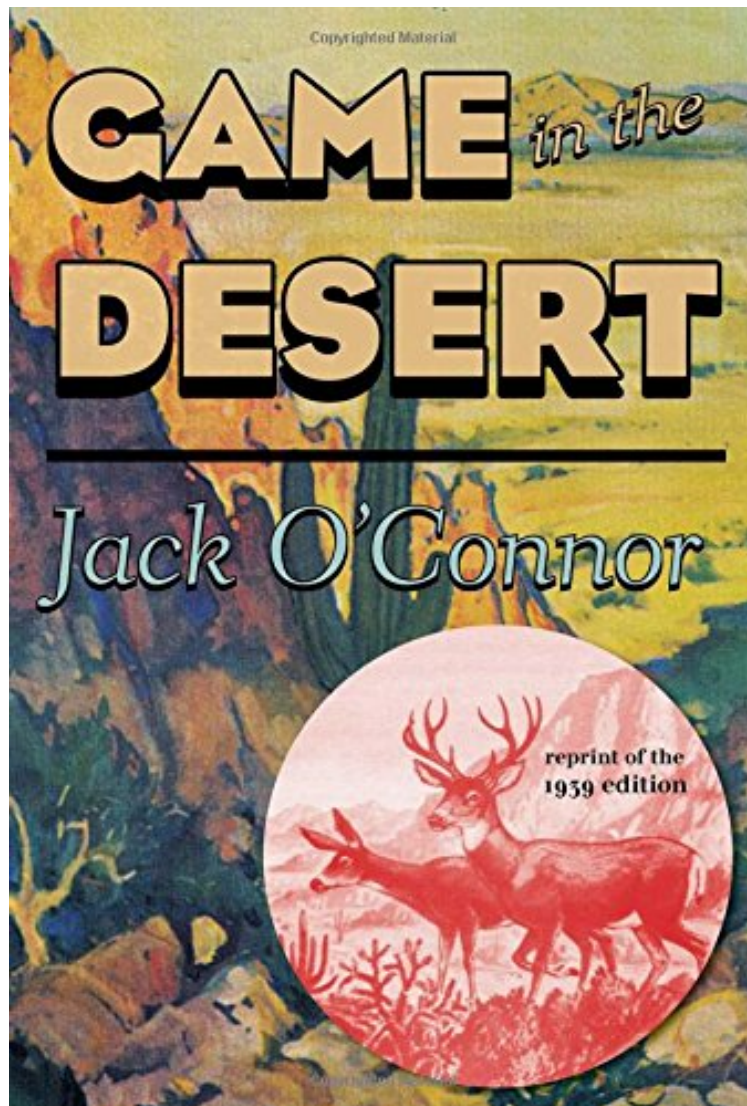


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Game in the Desert

Jack O'Connor

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Jack O'Connor : Game in the Desert before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Game in the Desert:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The "Old Master's" first shotBy goodoldmacIt would be wonderful, if at the end of our careers, we could, each of us, look back at our work and be able to say we were as respected and admired in our fields as the late Jack O'Connor was in his. Even his enemies were giants. O'Connor, born in the Arizona Territory (not even a state yet) in 1902 and lived, grew up, was educated, married, began his family, became a college professor, in the American Southwest, primarily Arizona, though he also lived and taught in western Texas for

a while. He also hunted in free time in the Mexican state of Sonora. All of this is desert country, and from his earliest days, O'Connor was self-professed 'desert rat,' (though curiously, later he publicly wrote he was NEVER happy with the desert heat, and was much happier living in Idaho, the state he and his family 'fled' to in 1948, where he lived for the rest of his life) This book was O'Connor's first non-fiction book.. (He had previously published two novels) and he writes knowingly of the various game animals of the desert regions. About the time this book was published in 1939, (in the text he refers to writing it in 1937 and revising it in 1938) he became the shooting/hunting editor of Outdoor Life Magazine, a position he would hold for the next 30 odd years and would become, arguably, the most influential of the so-called 'gun writers' of the post WWII period. His feuds, with Elmer Keith (one of the few who could challenge O'Connor's claim to pre-eminence) and Col. Charles Askin, were the stuff of legend. 'Game in the Desert' is interesting. This is a young O'Connor, writing at 35, revising at 36, publishing at 37, and the clear prose for which he was known was already present. Clear concise thoughts, 'weeping' (in print) for the vanishing game, (mostly..a bit more on this later) His gloomier predictions on the collared peccary, aka "javelina" happily did not come true, since the animal is increasing in numbers here in US at least..The Elk has been reestablished over much of its range, and record numbers of pronghorns are brought in every year. His prediction that the desert bighorn would hold out indefinitely in Mexico seems a bit optimistic, considering the news from Mexico though that country is taking a firmer approach to game conservation now, so perhaps there is hope...I was interested in Jack's 'condemnation' of the mountain lion, predicting its eventual extinction and basically cheering it on. He thought killing a mountain lion saved 200 deer a year. Curiously, though, despite this condemnation, O'Connor himself killed only one mountain lion in his life. And by 1961, had swung completely over to the other side, considering the mountain lion a part of American West, and essential for a healthy deer herd. "Game in the Desert" is an interesting book, one needed to be read by more than one sort of person. For O'Connor fans, of course, it is not only a must read but a must have. But naturalists will find it interesting too, to see how an observer viewed the animals in question, (both mammals and birds are covered), the 'natural historian' will find the look back at pre WWII Southwest interesting...the amateur historian may enjoy it for the same reason...it is a photograph of Depression era America of 1 people found the following review helpful. Natural history book, not hunting and ballistics. By Stephan Marais Beautifully written book about big game in the arid South of the United States and also northern Mexico. The book was written long ago (1930s I think) so it is interesting from a historical viewpoint but not very relevant to today. This book is all about the habits, numbers and trophy quality of big game for the given era and area, and is not a compilation of hunting stories. It also does not cover rifles, ballistics etc. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must read for hunters. By Fanter Must read for hunters who chase North American big game. O'Connor is one of the best gun writers of all time and this is probably his best book in my opinion.

This book a reprint of the original 1939 edition offers an in-depth look at some of the most sought-after game in the American Southwest and northern Mexico. Included are black and grizzly bears, doves, elk and deer, and even Mexican jaguars. Each animal-dedicated chapter details habitat and behavior and includes stories from the author. Based mostly on the author's observations of game while on the hunt or just exploring in the field, this classic is a departure from natural history books that are simply a rehash of other books that are a rehash of still other books.

About the Author Jack O'Connor was a long-time writer for Outdoor Life magazine, where he served as shooting editor. He wrote more than a dozen books. He died in 1978.