



VERTEBRATES AND EVOLUTION

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Vertebrates and Evolution is written bearing in mind that the modern trends of studies on the chordates have changed drastically from classical study of one or two commonly available representative types to rather detailed comparative account of organs and organ systems present in all available extant forms. Vertebrates have evolved more complex digestive systems to adapt to their dietary needs. Some animals have a single stomach, while others have multi-chambered stomachs. Birds have developed a digestive system adapted to eating un-masticated (un-chewed) food. Vertebrates are a well-known group of animals that includes mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. The defining characteristic of vertebrates is their backbone, an anatomical feature that first appeared in the fossil record about 500 million years ago during the Ordovician period. The evolution of modern cells is arguably the most challenging and important problem the field of Biology has ever faced. In Darwin's day the problem could hardly be imagined. For much of the 20th century it was intractable. Evolutionary biology is the subfield of biology that studies the evolutionary processes that produced the diversity of life on Earth, starting from a single common ancestor. These processes include natural selection, common descent, and speciation. The book provides an introduction to structure-function concept at the level of organs and organ systems, which is fundamental to the understanding of synthesis of comparative anatomy.



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*Dedicated to
Late Shri Mangal Singh Rajput*

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