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Ecology and Conservation of Mountain Birds

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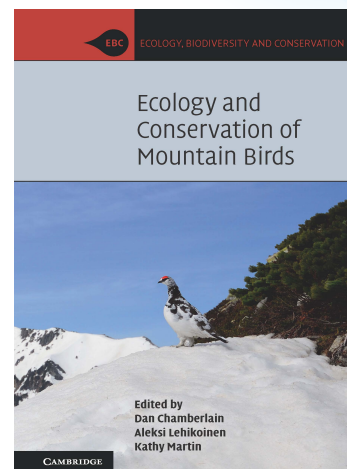
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High mountain habitats are globally important for biodiversity. At least 12% of birds worldwide breed at or above the treeline, many of which are endemic species or species of conservation concern. However, due to the challenges of studying mountain birds in difficult-to-access habitats, little is known about their status and trends. This book provides the first global review of the ecology, evolution, life history and conservation of high mountain birds, including comprehensive coverage of their key habitats across global mountain regions, assessments of diversity patterns along elevation gradients, and adaptations for life in the alpine zone. The main threats to mountain bird populations are also identified, including climate change, human land use and recreational activities. Written for ecologists and naturalists, this book identifies key knowledge gaps and clearly establishes the research priorities needed to increase our understanding of the ecology of mountain birds and to aid in their conservation.

1. Mountain birds and their habitats; 2. Avian adaptations to high mountain habitats: solving the challenges of living in alpine ecosystems; 3. Global bird communities of alpine and nival habitats; 4. Birds of treeline ecotones; 5. Population trends of mountain birds in Europe and North America; 6. Climate change impacts on mountain birds; 7. Anthropogenic activities and mountain birds; 8. Modelling large-scale patterns in mountain bird diversity and distributions; 9. The alpine avifauna of tropical mountains; 10. Priorities for information, research and conservation of birds in high mountains; Bird species index; Subject index.



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