

# The Nature Fakers: Wildlife, Science & Sentiment

BOUSE

Bring 'em Back... Alive?

The BBC's *Walking with Dinosaurs* brings extinct species back to life  
-- or something like it.  
Derek Bouse

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In their one-hundred-plus year history, wildlife and natural history films have not always been filmed in wild or natural settings. Neither have they always depicted completely natural behavior. Harsh conditions, expensive film stocks and equipment, and most of all the uncertain behavior of animals, have driven many wildlife filmmakers to long for the control enjoyed by their colleagues in feature films. It was this lack of control, in fact, that led many critics to dismiss wildlife films unfairly as being "amateurish." Clearly, there is nothing amateurish about today's wildlife filmmakers, but even those most determined to film authentic wild behavior in the natural settings have found themselves forced by competitive pressures to shoot close-ups, missed shots, dramatic angles, and subtle bits of behavior in enclosures, zoos, laboratories, television studios, and now, finally, in cyberspace. The second century of wildlife films may well be the one in which the wild and often unpredictable behavior of some of the most awesome and ferocious creatures can be made to conform to any scripted scenario, brought under control at last -- by a mouse.

Yet well before the age of computer generated imagery, indeed, from the start there have been those wildlife filmmakers who have tried to make animal behavior conform to audiences' preconceived notions, and to the dramatic conventions of mass market entertainments. Many have resorted to manipulations more severe than the digital kind. In the 1930s, for example, a Barnum-esque American named Frank Buck achieved notoriety with a trio of wild animal "capture" films, *Bring 'em Back Alive* (1932), *Wild Cargo* (1934), and *Fang and Claw* (1935). The popularity of these with audiences rested largely on the dramatic way in which they "proved" widely held notions that animals in the wild exist in a state of constant interspecies warfare (a "never ending arms race," as a more recent wildlife film put it). Buck's specialty was staging dramatic fights in small

enclosures between animals who would normally have avoided each other in the wild, but who reacted to shared confinement by attacking each other with audience-pleasing ferocity. Armand Denis, who directed the second Buck outing, later recalled his reaction to Buck's plan for one such a battle. "How's about a fight to the death between a tiger and an orang-utan?" Buck asked.

"Well," I said cautiously, "orang-utan occurs in Borneo and Sumatra; there are tigers also in Sumatra, so it is not inconceivable that an orang-utan and a tiger could meet -- but surely if they did, they'd just avoid each other. Animals don't normally fight to the death for nothing."  
"Don't they, eh?" replied Buck.  
"When I'm around they do."

In the world of mass market entertainments, where wildlife films still reside today, accuracy continues to rest uneasily on the same slippery slope. That is, in Denis's phrase, if it is "not inconceivable" that something *could* occur, then, according to the logic of film and television it probably has occurred, or could very well at any moment. The fact that extraordinary circumstances would be required to produce its occurrence is irrelevant. The implied conclusion is, simply, that such things *do* occur. Every climactic rescue, epic gun battle, and apocalyptic explosion in film and television thus carries with it an implied, if muddled, statement of probability: such things *could* occur, therefore such things *do* occur. This is, in a way, the basis of film

<sup>1</sup> Denis (1964: 58).

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Wildlife, Science, and Sentiment. Ralph H. The spirited "nature fakers" controversy that ensued reveals much about public attitudes toward nature at the time. [lemeilleurnettoyantducolon.com](http://lemeilleurnettoyantducolon.com): The Nature Fakers: Wildlife, Science, and Sentiment (Under the Sign of Nature) (): Ralph H. Lutts: Books. Joel W. Hedgpeth, "The Nature Fakers: Wildlife, Science & Sentiment. Ralph H. Lutts," *The Quarterly Review of Biology* 68, no. 2 (Jun., ): Bibliography of William J. Long: (p. []) Includes bibliographical references (p. []). Bookplateleaf Boxid IA Camera. In John Burroughs published an Atlantic Monthly article attacking popular nature writers--among them William J. Long and Jack London--as "sham. The "nature fakers" dialogue set a new standard of accuracy for the responsible nature writer. Peter J. Schmitt; *The Nature Fakers: Wildlife, Science and Sentiment*. By Ralph H. Lutts. Golden, Colorado: Fulcrum Publishing, xv + Request PDF on ResearchGate *The Nature Fakers: Wildlife, Science and Sentiment* In John Burroughs published an Atlantic Monthly article attacking. *The Nature Fakers: Wildlife, Science & Sentiment*. By Ralph H. Lutts. Golden, Colorado: Fulcrum, Reprinted Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia. Available in the National Library of Australia collection. Author: Lutts, Ralph H; Format: Book; xv, p.: ill. ; 24 cm. *Domesticating Nature?: Surveillance and Conservation of Migratory Shorebirds in the Atlantic Flyway*. Kristoffer Whitney - - *Studies in History and lemeilleurnettoyantducolon.com*: *Nature Fakers: Wildlife, Science, and Sentiment* () by Ralph H. Lutts and a great selection of similar New, Used and Collectible. [lemeilleurnettoyantducolon.com](http://lemeilleurnettoyantducolon.com): *The Nature Fakers: Wildlife, Science & Sentiment*: Account of the humorous 'nature fakers' controversy started by John Burroughs in Trove: Find and get Australian resources. Books, images, historic newspapers, maps, archives and more. 6 days ago looking for, from the many other titles of *The Nature Fakers Wildlife Science And Sentiment PDF* books, here is also available other sources of. The nature fakers controversy was an early 20th-century American literary debate highlighting the conflict between science and sentiment in popular nature *The Nature Fakers: Wildlife, Science & Sentiment*. University of Virginia Press. *The nature fakers: wildlife, science & sentiment*. Author: Lutts, Ralph H. Personal Author: Lutts, Ralph H. Publication Information: Golden, Colo.: Fulcrum, []. Ralph H. Lutts, *The Nature Fakers: Wildlife, Science, and Sentiment* (Golden center of this polemic: a "conflict between science and sentiment". (p. 3) as the. the laws of nature, using scientific and medical studies as evidence for many. Lutts, Ralph H. *The Nature Fakers: Wildlife, Science & Sentiment*. Golden, CO. *THE NATURE FAKERS: Wildlife, Science & Sentiment*. By Ralph H. Lutts. ( Fulcrum, \$) Can a beaver bandage the stump of its own.

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