

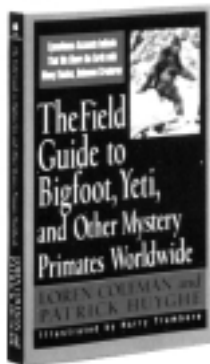
The Field Guide to Bigfoot, Yeti, and Other Mystery Primates Worldwide

The thousands of worldwide sightings of unclassified bipedal primates, including the Yeti, may be confusing because these sightings entail more than one species. This field guide attempts to sort out the different creatures, coming up with a classification of eight possible mystery primates. But this book makes no real attempt to persuade skeptics of the existence of any of them. It's sort of speculative taxonomy, but I think it is one of the most useful texts in the ongoing controversy over Bigfoot—which, I will admit, I thoroughly believe exists.

—KK

The Field Guide to Bigfoot, Yeti, and Other Mystery Primates Worldwide

Loren Coleman and Patrick Huyghe
1999, 207 pages
\$12.50
Avon Books



Two decades after Sanderson, the British anthropologist Myra Shackley surveyed the situation in her book *Still Living?* and divided the reports of hairy hominids worldwide into just three types: (1) the chuchunaa from Siberia, which she theorized were now extinct or assimilated by humans; (2) the Sasquatch or Yeti (she used the terms interchangeably), which are present in North America, the Himalayas, the Pamirs, Siberia, and China, and which she linked to Gigantopithecus; and (3) the almas, which range from the Caucasus Mountains eastward to Mongolia, and which Shackley believes are probably Neandertals.

Trailmaster Trail Monitor

I live adjacent to a national recreation area where we enjoy a year-round parade of wildlife past our house. For years now I've been looking for a little gizmo that would take advantage of a point-and-shoot camera (with auto exposure and focus) to capture pictures of wildlife triggered by their own movement. The gadget I fantasized about would link an ordinary household motion detector to a camera, which could then be set up along a trail on the hills behind our house. To my great delight, precisely this gizmo can be had from the good folks at Trailmaster.

Trailmaster makes several models of infrared wildlife monitors. These battery-operated devices detect movements that can easily be used to trigger a camera. Indeed, Trailmaster sells a kit that includes a specially modified weatherproof auto focus/exposure Yashica camera, a 25-foot connecting cable, plus hardware to mount them in the wild, for \$290.

The clock in the monitor can be set to trigger the camera only at night, or only in day, or at any hours of your choosing. The motion detection system can also be tweaked to detect, say, only large animals, or only fast-moving animals, so that when correctly placed it can be used to selectively distinguish certain animals.

Many people purchase the monitor alone as a counter. Biologists taking censuses of animal populations or hunters tracking game are typical users. But the real joy is in photography.

Detector-enabled cameras are becoming a key tool in conservation work. Because they are unobtrusive, eternally patient, and immune to sleep or bad weather, they see things observers keep missing. Trailmaster monitors are enabling field biologists in Africa, Asia, and South America to detect species of animals in areas no one knew they inhabited. Once an animal's existence is proven by film, it becomes easier to find other evidence of its presence.

The technology works just as wonderfully in backyards or local wildernesses. I purchased a Trailmaster passive monitor camera kit (\$180), which is geared to sensing all wildlife in a wide field of vision, to try to catalog all the animals active on the trails in the hills behind our house. In addition to the fox, coyote, and bobcat I knew about, I suspected that there was mountain lion (I live 12 miles from downtown San Francisco!). I haven't captured any cougars yet, but the camera is catching all kinds of other critters, especially the nocturnal ones we seldom see. (It takes some experience to aim the set-up effectively).

The coolest thing is the way getting film back from the processor is like Christmas every time. You open up the envelope with no idea what you've got. It certainly has broadened my view of the neighborhood.

—KK

Trailmaster Trail Monitor

TM550 Passive Infrared Trail Monitor
\$180
TM35-1 Camera Kit
\$290
Trailmaster
800/544-5415
www.trailmaster.com



The TM550 must be mounted on a tree or post that does not move. The sensor is a heat-and-motion sensor and is dependent on being stationary to work properly. The camera can be located up to 25 feet away from the TM550.



"For more than 20 years I have been studying tigers at Royal Chitwan National Park in Nepal. Recently I purchased one of your Trail Master TM 1500 units and the camera, in order to take identification photos of tigers. The second night I put it out by a road and got an excellent photo of a tigress. Then I decided to put it up by a trail that runs along the crest of a ridge. I set it up about two yards off the path. At 0902 one morning a male tiger walked through the beam and activated the unit. The almost inaudible 'click' made by the camera got his attention. He attacked, knocking over the tripod. Seizing the camera in his mouth he carried it 80 yards down the trail before dropping it. One of the tiger's canines penetrated the body of the camera, leaving a sizable hole just at the spot where the film winds on. I dismissed the possibility that the photo would come out, but against all odds, it did. I enclose a copy. Amazingly, the camera still works..."

