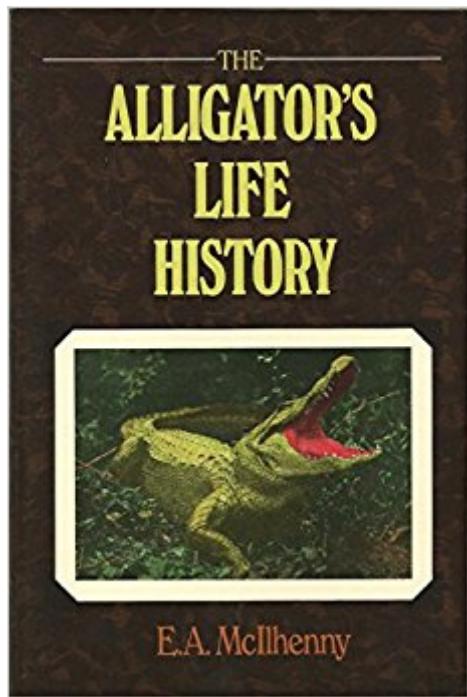


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# The Alligator's Life History



## Synopsis

This is a fully illustrated work whose copyright is expired authored by Edward Avery McIlhenny. Edward Avery McIlhenny founded the Bird City wildfowl refuge on Avery Island around 1895, which helped to save the snowy egret from extinction. Enrolling the help of businessman and conservationist Charles Willis Ward, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Sage Foundation, McIlhenny was instrumental in securing nearly 175,000 acres (710 km<sup>2</sup>) of south Louisiana coastal marshland as wildfowl refuges. He banded over 285,000 birds during his lifetime and ran a game farm on Avery Island that experimented with breeding new animal varieties. He helped to introduce the nutria to Louisiana, although "contrary to popular belief" he did not import the creatures to Louisiana, nor was he the first Louisianan to set them loose in the wild on purpose. McIlhenny used his 170-acre (0.69 km<sup>2</sup>) personal estate, known as Jungle Gardens, to propagate both Louisiana-native and imported plant varieties, including azaleas, irises, camellias, papyrus, and bamboo. He wrote numerous academic articles, mainly about birds and reptiles, oversaw the publication in English of two European botanical treatises, and edited Charles L. Jordan's unfinished manuscript *The Wild Turkey and Its Hunting* (a book often mistakenly attributed to McIlhenny).  
--This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The author was born and lived on Avery Island, Louisiana, a place with an abundance of alligators. He has observed them all his life. This book tells of his experiences. The Spanish settler on the Gulf Coast called them "el largato" (lizard), and this was changed by English settlers to "alligator".

Chapter 1 provides a physical description of these reptiles, and the enormous power of their jaws. The author contrasts his observations to published information (pp. 20-23). Chapter 2 tells about the habitat of alligators. They dig holes underwater for safety, and to spend the cold winter months. This makes the grass around it greener. Alligators can make trails between water holes, and often travel locally. Alligators mostly feed during warm weather, April to October (Chapter 3). They feed on every living thing they can catch. The extermination of alligators led to a great increase in garfish, muskrats, ducks, water snakes, and turtles. Deer and dogs can be killed when they drink from water; cattle when they walk through marshes. Hogs can not be raised anywhere near alligators. Chapter 4 tells of their rates of growth, and size. Hunting alligators for their hides has destroyed large numbers. New teeth form inside old teeth and replace them (Chapter 5). Full grown alligators have teeth that are almost solid. Chapter 6 describes the limited vocal ability of alligators. Except for man, alligators have no enemies once they grow to about 3 to 4 feet long (Chapter 7). The author explains why they have acute hearing and sight (p.85). Protecting alligators resulted in destroying great numbers of muskrats (p.86). Chapter 8 tells of the variations in size and location of alligator nests. Fully grown females will often use the same location year after year.

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