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## THE SPIRIT OF EXMOOR RED DEER

*Ray Stoneman*

The wild red deer of Exmoor is the symbol of Exmoor, which sustains one of the largest herds in England. Several thousand live on its open moors, in its woods and in its combs. Yet, because of their acute hearing, sight and sense of smell, the deer can be elusive creatures, far from easy to photograph. Master photographer Ray Stoneman has studied their habits and habitats for decades to produce this remarkable collection of images of Exmoor's wild red deer through the seasons. From the autumn rut, through the hard months of winter, the new growth of antlers in the spring, to the birth of the calves in the summer, Ray Stoneman captures the true spirit of the red deer – the monarch of the moor.

**Ray Stoneman** has lived on the edge of Exmoor for most of his life. As a past winner of the British Deer Society photographic competition, Ray's collection of photographs cover many themes, but it is the wild red deer of Exmoor that remain his favourite subject.



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*A family affair –  
Another stag with hinds near Hindnam Lane.*



*Strictly come dancing – Hinds practicing their moves.*



*What a shock! – I was sitting in a tree during the rutting season when suddenly this roaring stag appeared below me.*



*Up and over –  
Stags effortlessly  
jumping a fence at  
Southill in the  
evening sun.*



*Setting sun – A group of stags in the early evening sun at Brendon Two Gates.*



*Example of a  
double page  
spread.*