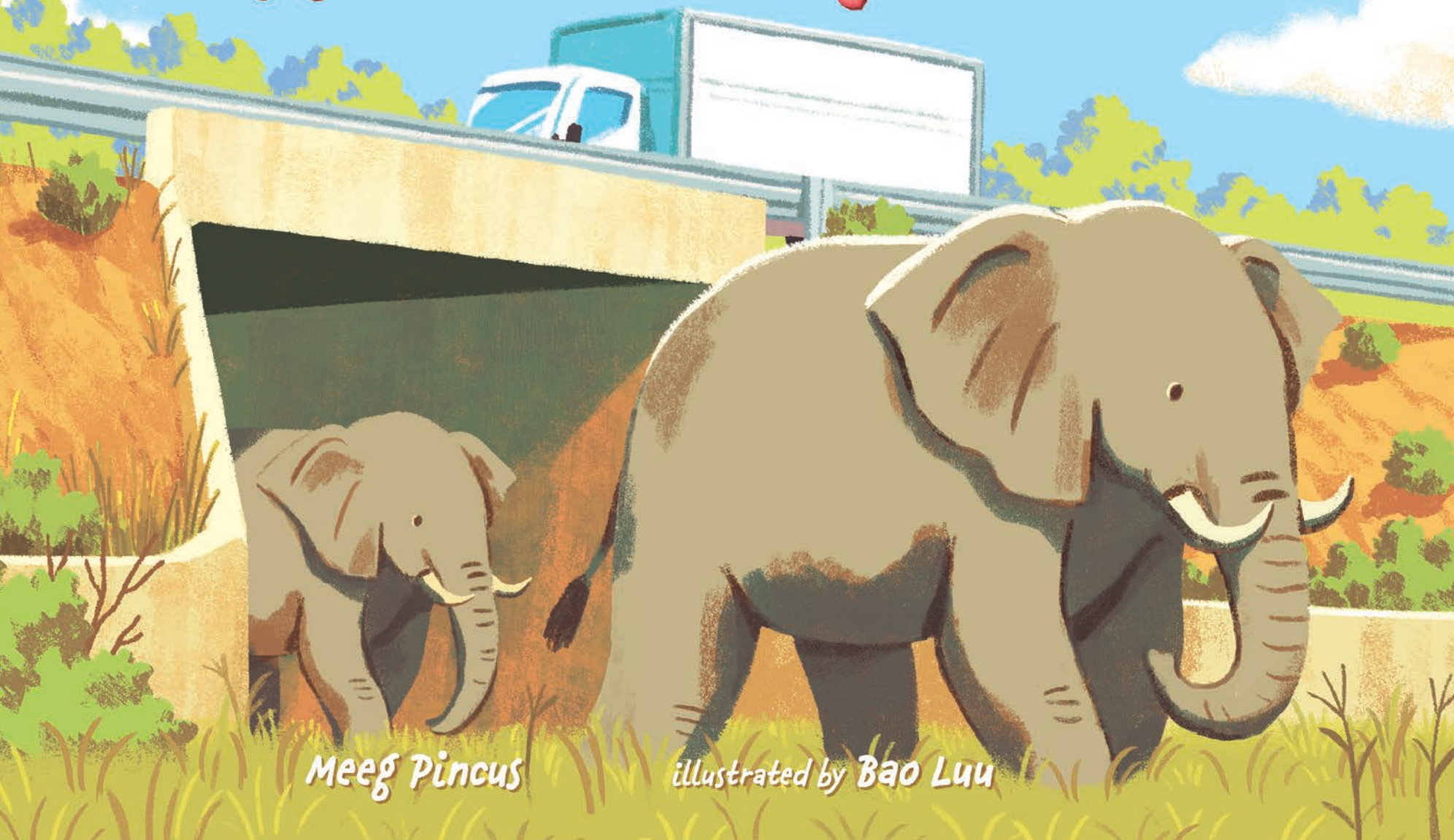


# Make Way for Animals!

A World  
of Wildlife  
Crossings



*Meeg Pincus*

*illustrated by Bao Luu*



Mom, this one's for you. Thanks for always being my bridge over troubled waters.  
—M.P.

To everyone who reads this book, thank you for being the motivation and helping  
me to realize my dream of working as an illustrator.  
—B.L.

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# *The road is a visitor.*

—Philosophy of the Peoples Way wildlife crossings team,  
Flathead Indian Reservation, Montana, United States





# The wonderful world of wildlife crossings

A *wildlife crossing* is a human-made structure, usually spanning over or under a road. There are also *wildlife corridors*, which can combine protected natural lands and human-made structures.

Both crossings and corridors allow wild animals to migrate and move freely, safe from traffic. Protecting natural migration patterns and animal behaviors keeps species alive and ecosystems in balance, which helps humans, plants, and animals.

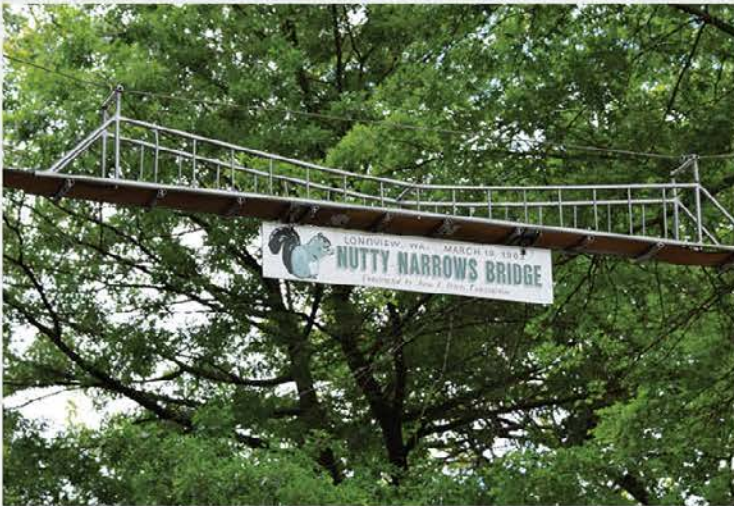
European cities built the first wildlife crossings in the 1950s. Today, in the United States, there are two million car accidents involving wild animals yearly, causing many thousands of animal and human injuries and deaths. More cities in the US and around the world are designing and building wildlife crossings to combat this problem.



Wildlife crossings, like this one in Germany, are becoming part of the planning when some new highways are built.

Sometimes one person sparks the creation of a wildlife crossing:

- In Washington State, a contractor named Amos Peters designed and built a crossing for squirrels called the Nutty Narrows Bridge above his small town's main street in 1963. (Squirrels still use it today!)
- In Japan, an engineer named Koichi Otake was so inspired after working on a suspension bridge to help tiny dormice cross safely over a road that he started a whole organization to promote wildlife crossings around his country.
- In Los Angeles, California, Beth Pratt, California regional executive director for the National Wildlife Federation, heard that wildlife biologists had been asking for years for an animal bridge over L.A.'s 101 Freeway to save the area's endangered mountain lions from extinction. So she set off on a mission to make it happen. She launched a successful campaign, #SaveLACougars, to raise millions of dollars for what's slated to be the world's largest wildlife crossing, expected to be completed by 2024.



The Nutty Narrows Bridge has been keeping squirrels safe from vehicles in Washington State for about sixty years!



When many people come together, entire networks of wildlife crossings can protect animals along major highways or throughout regions. This has happened in several places, including these three:



A community can come together to support animal crossings, as was the case for the Peoples Way wildlife crossing network in Montana.

- Montana, USA. When the government wanted to expand a highway through the wilderness of the Flathead Indian Reservation, leaders from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes spent ten years pushing back and talking with national and state officials. Finally, they all worked together—using the philosophy of “the road as a visitor” and “Spirit of Place”—to let the land shape the road’s design. They also created the Peoples Way wildlife crossing network, which includes forty-three animal crossings under and over the new highway, plus nearly 30 miles [48 km] of fencing, to protect animals, plants, and waterways.
- The Netherlands. Government officials, wildlife scientists, businesspeople, and architects collaborated to find ways to protect the endangered European badgers. Now this country’s six hundred wildlife crossings—the most of any country!—protect badgers and all kinds of other animals, including bison and wild boar.
- Banff, Canada. When roads were slated to run through the vast mountains and meadows of Canada’s Banff National Park, a whole team designed and built forty-four wildlife crossings to protect grizzly bears, deer, moose, cougars, coyotes, lynx, wolves, and wolverines.



Some protected wildlife areas, such as Canada’s Banff National Park, have overpasses and underpasses to shield animals from vehicles.

Wildlife crossings are a beautiful example of how people and animals can live in harmony. Are there any where you live? If you’re not sure, do some digging and find out!

## *Design your own wildlife crossing*

For a fun project, you can design your own wildlife crossing for any kind of wild animal in any place you can think of! It could be a bridge, a tunnel, a natural canopy, or something else.

Draw it, sculpt it from clay, build it with Legos—use your creativity! If it's for your own community, consider sharing your idea with elected officials or city planners.

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