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Lost Wild America: The Story Of Our Extinct And Vanishing Wildlife



Synopsis

Traces the history of wildlife conservation and environmental politics in America to 1992, and describes various extinct or endangered species.

Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

Hardcover: 293 pages

Publisher: Linnet Books; Revised edition (1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0208023593

ISBN-13: 978-0208023599

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 6.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up-This title, which first appeared in 1969, has been expanded and updated, taking a thorough look at the history of wildlife conservation in the United States. Through quotes from Charles Darwin to Henry David Thoreau to Al Gore, the plight of wildlife is examined species by species, policy by policy. McClung is evenhanded, even though the picture he paints is far from pretty. Many of the species discussed have been either hunted to the brink of extinction or forced out of their natural habitats by development. Current events are discussed, including the 1992 Environmental Summit in Rio and the campaign pledges of candidates Bush and Clinton on related issues during the 1992 election. Enhanced by Hines's pen-and-ink drawings, this is a must for any library collection. A thorough bibliography and index make the book an excellent resource for anyone seeking information on this timely subject. Helen Rosenberg, Chicago Public Library, IL
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Gr. 5-8. Updated and expanded from the 1969 edition, which is a staple on library shelves, this useful, readable book gives readers the checkered story of American wildlife management from

pioneer days to the present. A good resource for reports on extinct and endangered animals, it includes examples of vanished species as well as those coming back from the brink of extinction and others whose survival is still an open question. Well worth buying to replace the earlier edition and to update collections in this important area. Carolyn Phelan

Pros: If you wanted to know how many American species were discovered, how they are tracked, how they live, and how some of them are no more, this is a concise guide that offers that information. The chapters are divided by family and there is a good index. There are also illustrations of some species that cannot be seen anymore, or for which there are so few members that there is likely going to be no further generations. There are details about how still others are being saved and repopulated, with the details about how. Cons: The quantitative data can get somewhat repetitive at times, but numbers are sometimes the only information, in terms of pelts or bodies, that are available. It takes a strange positive tone near the end after recounting the many ways that human influence has directly destroyed entire populations and continues to do so. It delivers a single, somewhat conflicted solution, and I can't help thinking i would have been more effective if it let the reader come to their own conclusions about how to solve the problem of dwindling biodiversity and diminishing resources. Conclusion: This book is a comprehensive history and catalog of species extinct or endangered in North America, although a lot of species migrate to other parts of the world. It describes how species dwindle, how some died off, and how others were restored. The case is well established about the value of some of them, which is really the most important information available from this text.

This is an excellent history of American wildlife and American Wildlife Management. I am excited to see this topic put together so well for the younger (middle school to high school reader). This is a very important part of our American History, and is never addressed in schools. I am using this book at home for our home schooling and some excerpts for our Biology class at our home school co-op. I recommend this book for young adults as well as adults interested in our environmental history. I had to go to college in order to be exposed to this material.

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