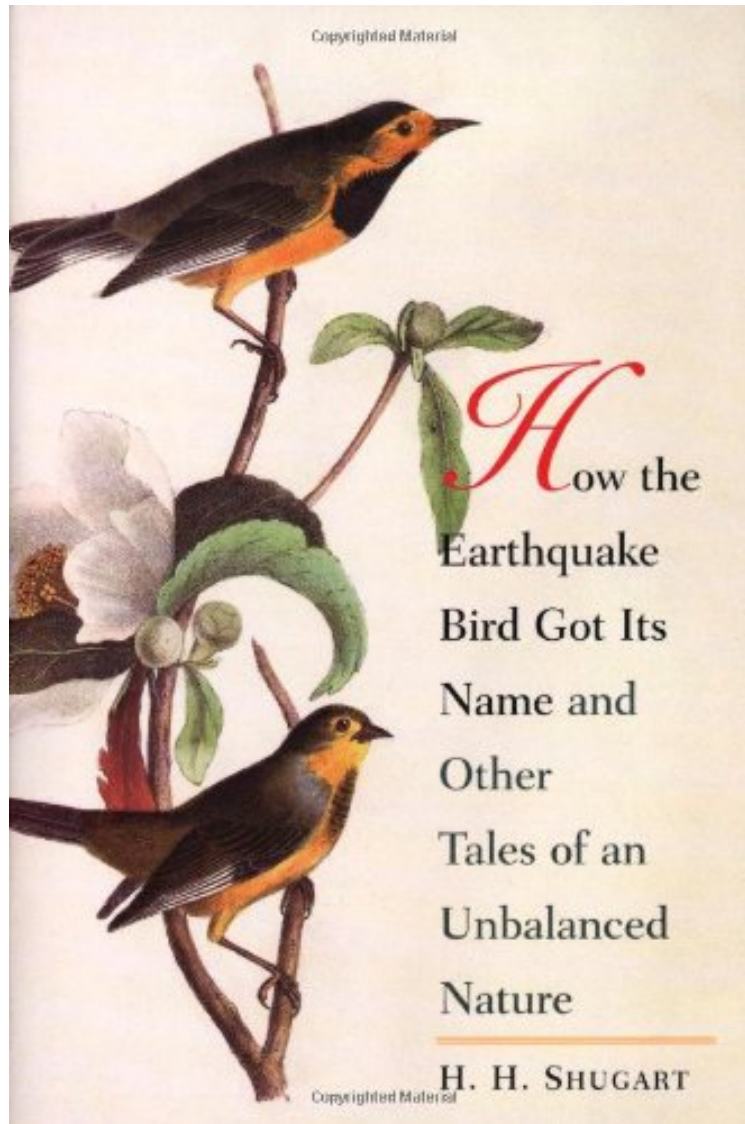


[Free] How the Earthquake Bird Got Its Name and Other Tales of an Unbalanced Nature

How the Earthquake Bird Got Its Name and Other Tales of an Unbalanced Nature

H.H. Shugart

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#2092542 in Books 2004-11-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .79 x 6.42 x 9.46l, 1.03 #File Name: 030010457X240 pages | File size: 76.Mb

H.H. Shugart : How the Earthquake Bird Got Its Name and Other Tales of an Unbalanced Nature before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How the Earthquake Bird Got Its Name and Other Tales of an Unbalanced Nature:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Terrific read; entertaining and educationalBy Book LoverThis book satisfies on several levels. It's wonderfully entertaining and at the same time manages to clearly explain important

scientific concepts. I finished the book with a much better understanding of ecological issues - and a deeper appreciation for this marvelously complex world in which we live. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Brianna Book came in great quality. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Bird lovers By L. Madison GREAT book - very interesting; even for those who are beginning with ornithology/bird watching. made a bird lover out of me!

Although people have been altering earth's landscapes to some extent for tens of thousands of years, humankind today is causing massive changes to the planet. Such widespread environmental change is accompanied by accelerating rates of species extinction. In this book, noted ecologist H. H. Shugart presents important ecological concepts through entertaining animal parables. He tells the stories of particular birds and mammals—the packrat, ivory-billed woodpecker, penguin, dingo, European rabbit, and others—and what their fates reveal about the interactions between environmental change and the extinctions or explosions of species populations. Change is the root of many planetary problems, but it is also an intrinsic feature of our living planet. Shugart explores past environmental change, discusses the non-existence of a “balance of Nature,” and documents how human alterations have affected plants, soils, and animals. He looks with hope toward a future in which thoughtful people learn—and use—ecological science to protect the landscapes upon which terrestrial creatures depend.

From Publishers Weekly The "balance of nature" trope beloved of lion vs. wildebeest wildlife documentaries reassures viewers of the robustness of the ecological equilibrium. This engaging collection of essays, by contrast, emphasizes the fragility of nature's equilibrium by exploring the wide-ranging, often irreversible, consequences of disturbing it. Ecologist Shugart structures each chapter around a paradigmatic animal species whose travails or triumphs illustrate important principles of environmental change. Some, like the now extinct ivory-billed woodpecker, are done in by habitat depletion, while others, like the European rabbits that overran Australia, are themselves the agents of natural catastrophe by virtue of their own success. While Shugart explores the effects of earthquakes and wildfires, people are a constant presence in these stories; their pervasive destabilizing effects on the environment are comparable, in his view, to the asteroid impacts that touched off the mass extinctions of ages past. Along the way, Shugart explains concepts in theoretical ecology and ladles out plenty of fascinating lore on such topics as the domestication of animals and the amazing methods by which migratory birds navigate the globe. The result is a lucid, thought-provoking science popularization with an unobtrusive environmentalist message. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Say the words terrestrial ecology and most readers will turn away, remembering all those boring high-school or college lectures. Interest in animal stories, though, is always high. Ecologist Shugart has ingeniously combined fascinating tales of real animals, rare or common, extinct or ubiquitous, with clear exposition of the ecological principles the animal parable illustrates. The result is a highly readable treatise on the "balance of nature" and the role of environmental change. Using five bird and five mammal species, Shugart first presents a story about an animal, then expands the narrative to include other species as he explains the ecological concept in question. In recent history, humans have caused the major changes of the planet, and Shugart points out that following ecological principles will protect future landscapes. Extensive chapter notes and clear illustrations round out an excellent choice for science-minded readers. Nancy Bent Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved. "Through a menagerie of animal parables, Hank Shugart combines interesting stories with ecological information and a strong conservation message. This is a book for curious readers of all stripes."—John B. Dunning, Jr., Purdue University