

# WTBBL Book List:

## Nature & the Environment

**The Book of Eels: Our Enduring Fascination with the Most Mysterious Creature in the Natural World** by Patrik Svensson, 2020. ([DB100583](#))

A journalist presents an exploration of the European eel, *Anguilla Anguilla*, and humans' fascination with it through history. Discusses philosophical investigations of the eel, research into its point of origin, and everyday interactions with it by the general populace. Translated from the original 2019 Swedish edition. Nonfiction.

**The Genius of Birds** by Jennifer Ackerman, 2016. ([DB085848](#))

Exploration of technical and social intelligence of birds. Surveys twenty-first century research into birds' behavioral and morphological traits, including ways to measure intelligence, the structure of their brains, ways they use technology, social interactions, diversity of birdsong, use of space and time, and more. Nonfiction.

**Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants** by Robin Wall Kimmerer, 2016. ([DB092274](#))

Botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation argues that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgement and celebration of a reciprocal relationship with the world. Shares stories learned from her elders about the world around them and ways of approaching scientific inquiry. Nonfiction.

**How Far the Light Reaches: A Life in Ten Sea Creatures** by Sabrina Imbler, 2022. ([DB111625](#))

A queer, mixed race writer working in a largely white, male field, science and conservation journalist Sabrina Imbler has always been drawn to the mystery of life in the sea, and particularly to creatures living in hostile or remote environments. Each essay in their debut collection profiles one such creature: the mother octopus who starves herself while watching over her eggs, the Chinese sturgeon whose migration route has been decimated by pollution and dams, the bizarre Bobbitt worm, and other uncanny creatures lurking in the deep ocean, far below where the light reaches. Nonfiction.

**How Beautiful We Were** by Imbolo Mbue, 2021 ([DB102942](#))

In the fictional African village of Kosawa, a people live in fear amid environmental degradation wrought by an American oil company. Pipeline spills have rendered farmlands infertile. Children are dying from drinking toxic water. Left with few choices, the people of Kosawa decide to fight back. Violence and strong language. Fiction.

**Love, Life, and Elephants: An African Love Story** by Daphne Jenkins Sheldrick, 2012 ([DB075020](#))

Conservationist details her family's history in Kenya and her first marriage, divorce, and subsequent marriage to David Sheldrick, founding warden of Tsavo East National Park. Reminisces about orphaned animals she cared for over the years, especially the elephants of the park, and recounts her activities since David's 1977 death. Nonfiction.

**How to Raise a Wild Child: The Art and Science of Falling in Love with Nature** edited by Scott D Sampson, 2015. ([DB081478](#))

Based on research suggesting that experiences in nature are essential for healthy growth, Sampson discusses how adults can help kids fall in love with spending time outdoors. His methods include the use of technology, taking advantage of urban nature, and instilling a sense of place. Nonfiction.

**The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival** by John Vaillant, 2010. ([BRG02817](#), [DB074579](#))

It's December 1997, and a man-eating tiger is on the prowl outside a remote village in Russia's Far East. The tiger isn't just killing people, it's annihilating them, and a team of men and their dogs must hunt it on foot through the forest in the brutal cold. As the trackers sift through the gruesome remains of the victims, they discover that these attacks aren't random: the tiger is apparently engaged in a vendetta. Injured, starving, and extremely dangerous, the tiger must be found before it strikes again. Explores the beauty of the setting, the tiger's strength, and the political and geographical forces that shaped this remote region. Nonfiction.

**The End of Eden: Wild Nature in the Age of the Climate Breakdown** by Adam Welz, 2024. ([DB119499](#))

The stories we tell ourselves about climate change tend to focus on the damage inflicted on human societies by big storms, severe droughts, and rising sea levels. Walz provides a revelatory exploration of climate change from the perspective of wild species and natural ecosystems: an homage to the miraculous, vibrant entity that is life on Earth. He invites readers to meet wild species in a range of ecosystems that span the globe-- and are struggling to survive. We need to act in defense of the natural world... before it's too late. Nonfiction.

**Stalking the Wild Amaranth: Gardening in an Age of Extinction** by Janet Marinelli, 1998. ([DB047631](#))

Explores gardeners' options to rescue nearly extinct species and restore natural communities. When Marinelli joins a botanist to search the Long Island shores for an endangered species of seabeach amaranth, it starts her thinking about a gardener's role in a biologically homogenizing world. She also examines perceptions of what is "natural." Nonfiction.

**No Nature: New and Selected Poems** by Gary Snyder, 1992. ([DB036010](#))

A Pulitzer Prize-winning poet invites readers to "lay down these words / Before your mind like rocks. / placed solid..." Snyder's poems appeal to one's sense of place, to the presence of one's self and others, and especially to the connection between the human experience and the natural world as found on the west coast. Poetry.