field experiences in Central and South America. Marty Crump's memoirs brought back memories for me of my brief visits to Costa Rica and Belize. Although the book contains only 15 color photographs, Crump's vivid narrative paints a clear picture of the tropics and the animals that struggle to live there. Her experiences began in 1968 when she was in her senior year at the University of Kansas and are chronicled through 1999. During that time, she observed massive declines in amphibian diversity and overall populations. Her tadpole nurseries revealed much that was previously unknown about the life cycles of many frog species.

In spite of the book's title, Crump does not limit her writing to the subject of frogs. Some of her most intriguing accounts dealt with her encounters with army and leafcutter ants, bottflies, scorpions, monkeys, chiggers and snakes. The overall decline in the tropical rainforest is illustrated quite clearly when Ms. Crump returns to previous sites after a period of years. Oil exploration by the Texaco Corporation, deforestation and road building have all been documented in the 30 years spanned by this account.

This book would be quite helpful to anyone considering a trip to the tropics. Crump's accounts of the "cuisine" served her teams at the field stations, the mold growing on her clothing, and the dangers of sinking into mud are just a few of the hazards awaiting the first-time traveler. Likewise, readers who have already visited the tropics will view this account as a nostalgic trip down memory lane. Any natural history reader will be impressed by the author's enthusiasm, dedication and knowledge. Throughout the book, Crump includes black and white photographs. Following the epilogue is a series of maps of the countries visited, an appendix of common and scientific names, a second appendix summarizing the factors responsible for the decline of amphibian populations, and an index.

The **Nature of Frogs: Amphibians with an Attitude** contains 42 full-page spectacular color photographs of frogs, toads and tadpoles as well as numerous anatomical diagrams. In his five chapters of text, Harry Parsons concisely explains the taxonomy and diversity of anurans, frog folklore, the breeding habits of frogs and toads, the frog's role in food chains and the future of the group. Parsons' enthusiasm for frogs is abundantly apparent throughout the book. His discussion in the final chapter of monitoring groups and conservation efforts ends on an optimistic note. An appendix illustrates the taxonomy and geographic distribution of the anurans. This book belongs on any biologist's coffee table.

**Nature's Fading Chorus: Classic and Contemporary Writings on Amphibians** is an anthology. The selections are arranged chronologically within subject range opening with a selection by Aristotle (4th century B.C.E.) hypothesizing on spontaneous generation and extending to current naturalists describing frog deformities which were publicized in the 1990s, along with the accounts revealing the decline of amphibian populations in recent decades.

Such well-known naturalists as Henry David Thoreau, John Burroughs, Charles Darwin, Loren Eiseley, Stephen Jay Gould, Edwin Way Teale, George Orwell and Annie Dillard are amongst some of the contributors in the 30 plus essays. **Nature's Fading Chorus** provides the reader with a broad spectrum of views on the natural history of frogs and their role as an environmental indicator. This book is recommended for readers interested in natural history, ecology students and anyone interested in the roles amphibians have played in mankind's intellectual and natural history.

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**Reference**


**GALAPAGOS**


The **Galapagos Diary** written by Hermann Heinzl and Barnaby Hall bubbles with the enthusiasm of a youngster with a new toy. From the opening page, one becomes aware that this is a voyage of discovery. As they toured the many islands, the chemistry between Heinzl and Hall provides the fuel for that voyage to reach realization. The photography by Hall not only complements but also enhances the drawings and text of Heinzl. I am reminded of the many stories that surrounded Darwin on his voyages and I do draw a great number of parallels between the two ventures. The joy of naturalists in the field, with open eyes, a burning curiosity, and a gift to focus on the interactions of life and environment is evident.

I did enjoy the book, and I believe that the complete checklist of Galapagos birds is an excellent addition. On the other hand, I
it has found various uses as a musical instrument, and in many other fields of human endeavor.

The captions I have written explain that the book is a valuable guide to the Galapagos Islands, which are difficult to reach and visit in person. The book includes photographs, maps, and site descriptions, and is intended to be a useful guide for those interested in exploring the islands. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the natural history of the Galapagos Islands.

The concise nature of the book makes it a great introduction to the wonders of the Galapagos Islands. It is a perfect guide for future work on the Phylum Echinoidea, which is a major group of sea urchins. The vivid descriptions and diagrams of the sea urchins will inspire a deeper appreciation for these fascinating animals.