

ENTOMOLOGY

Locust. By Jeffrey A. Lockwood. 200. Basic Books, (ISBN 0-465-04167-1). 271 pp. Paperback. \$14.95

Even if you outgrew the bug-collecting stage long ago, and think that you have no interest in insects, don't let that cause you to ignore this book. It is a wonderful recounting of how the ecology of an insect shaped the lives and culture of the people who settled the American West, as told by Jeffrey A. Lockwood, a professor of Natural Sciences and Humanities at the University of Wyoming.

At a time in our nation's history when the West needed settlers, the great locust swarms and their devastation almost defeated westward expansion. The political and religious arguing over causes of the swarms, and the problem of starving farmers, helped to change our nation's character. It was also the beginning of our nation's turning to science to solve problems.

As a new faculty member and professional scientist, Lockwood discovered that the most difficult phase of science isn't analyzing data; it's asking a good question. For him the problem and question became: "So, how did a species that once blackened the skies,

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