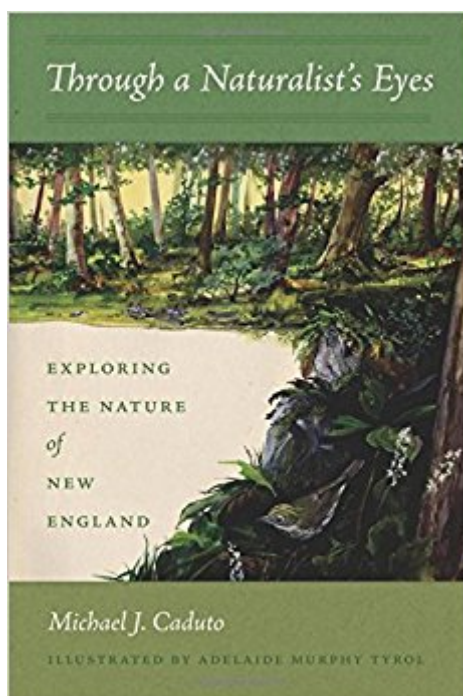


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Through A Naturalist's Eyes: Exploring The Nature Of New England



Synopsis

For native and visitor alike, the New England landscape has a rich allure. This grand sweep of land is a living tapestry woven of interconnected bioregions and natural communities whose compositions of plants and animals have evolved over time. In more than fifty essays, Michael J. Caduto brings readers into the complex stories to be found in nature. Drawing on first-hand experiences and reflections on the relationship between the natural world and humans, Caduto explores some of the plants, animals, natural places, and environmental issues of New England—from dragonflies, cuckoos, and chipmunks to circumpolar constellations and climate change. Stunning illustrations by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol illuminate these elegant and humorous essays.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Looking through a naturalist’s eyes is all the richer when those eyes are Caduto’s. . . . Natural history will always be a rich opportunity for discovery. Through a Naturalist’s Eyes celebrates why it is also such fun.” —Portland Press Herald

“Michael Caduto, one of the most perceptive observers of New England’s natural world, writes with authority and affection for his subject. With *Through a Naturalist’s Eyes*, he’s outdone himself. Not only is he describing what’s constantly going on around

us, but he makes it a personal experience, and we find ourselves saying, “Yes! I’ve seen that! So that’s what it is!” (Willem Lange, author of *Words from the Wild*) “For all of us who love the forests, hills, and marshes of New England, this is much more than a guide book—it’s an invitation to explore, and a key to making sense of what we notice. Many thanks to Michael Caduto for opening my eyes again!” (Bill McKibben, author of *Wandering Home* and cofounder of 350.org) “Michael Caduto’s well-researched, engaging essays are a combination of personal narrative, natural history, and bits of conversations—like a naturalist’s dinner party with a roomful of ecologists, biologists, and storytellers.” (Lisa Purcell, director, Four Winds Nature Institute) “Rich with fascinating details. . . . No matter what you may think you know, this book offers something new to discover about the natural world around us.” (Paul Rezendes, author of *Tracking and the Art of Seeing*)

This book grew on me as I read it. The essays are usually 2 or 3 pages, too short to do more than be a tease. But the writing is quite good, as are the line drawings—I prefer photos because drawings are often mediocre, but in this book they lend to the good-humored charm (but it is a serious book). Some of the titles are rather witty such as “Chipmunk CPR” which is in fact about him administering CPR to a chipmunk. I’ve read a great deal of natural history, but still found some surprises. For example I did not know the Northern short-tailed shrew delivers poison with its bite, or that it has a kind of echolocation. Nor did I know that woodcock eyes, being set back and high on the bird’s head, and so deliver partial binocular vision both ahead and behind. I liked the essays dealing with cold the best—trees in the cold, insects surviving in cold, spring peepers and muskrats in the cold. I also liked the essay on the Indian pipe, on peat and on the Yellow-bellied sapsucker.

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