

Wormworth, Janice and Cagan H. Sekercioglu. *Winged Sentinels: Birds and Climate Change*. 2011. Cambridge University Press. Paperback: 262 pages. Price: \$40.00 U.S. [[Amazon UK](#); [Amazon US](#)].



SUMMARY: 'The ability of the birds to show us the consequences of our own actions is among their most important and least appreciated attributes. Despite the free advice of the birds, we do not pay attention', said Marjory Stoneman Douglas in 1947. From ice-dependent penguins of Antarctica to songbirds that migrate across the Sahara, birds' responses provide early warning signs of the impact of climate change. *Winged Sentinels: Birds and Climate Change* uses colourful examples to show how particular groups of birds face heightened threats from climate change and to explore how we can help birds adapt in a warming world. Generously illustrated with colour photographs, the book is a fascinating insight into what climate change means for birds, and the potential consequences of ignoring these warning signs.

IAN'S RECOMMENDATION: A good introduction on the subject.

Meldahl, Keith Heyer. *Rough-Hewn Land: A Geologic Journey from California to the Rocky Mountains*. 2011. University of California Press. Hardbound: 296 pages. Price: \$34.95 U.S. [[Amazon UK](#); [Amazon US](#)].



SUMMARY: "Unfold a map of North America," Keith Heyer Meldahl writes, "and the first thing to grab your eye is the bold shift between the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains." In this absorbing book, Meldahl takes readers on a 1000-mile-long field trip back through more than 100 million years of deep time to explore America's most spectacular and scientifically intriguing landscapes. He places us on the outcrops, rock hammer in hand, to examine the evidence for how these rough-hewn lands came to be. We see California and its gold assembled from pieces of old ocean floor and the relentless movements of the Earth's tectonic plates. We witness the birth of the Rockies. And we investigate the violent earthquakes that continue to shape the region today. Into the West's geologic story, Meldahl also weaves its human history. As we follow the adventures of John C. Frémont, Mark Twain, the Donner party, and other historic characters, we learn how geologic forces have shaped human experience in the past and how they direct the fate of the West today.

IAN'S RECOMMENDATION: A good introduction to the geology of the region.

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Ian "Birdbooker" Paulsen is an avid and well-known book collector, especially to the publishing world. Mr Paulsen collects newly-published books about science, nature, history, animals and birds, and he also collects children's books on these topics. Mr Paulsen writes brief synopses about these books on his website, *The Birdbooker Report*.

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