

on the wall, and for many species, the time for saving action may have passed. *Ten Thousand Birds* is a solid read for students of nature, avian enthusiasts, and scientists. Hopefully the take-home message is a renewed appreciation of earth's wildlife species and a sense that we are certainly not alone on this wonderful planet.

LITERATURE CITED

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BOOK REVIEW

Uncertain Path: A Search for the Future of National Parks. William C. Tweed. 2011. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA. 248 pages; \$24.95, paperback. ISBN-13: 978-0520271388.

To grasp the true meaning of “nature,” “natural,” or “wild,” one must journey down William Tweed’s *Uncertain Path*. Tweed sets out on a 240-mile hike along the John Muir Trail, looking for a new perspective on wilderness. His goal is to analyze the covenant of the National Park Service (NPS), written to preserve parklands “unimpaired” for future generations to enjoy. Tweed is knowledgeable; he worked for 3 decades in the National Park System. With his deep, unwavering love for backpacking in the Sierra Nevada, he draws us in.

What is the fate of these mountain landscapes? As we hike down the John Muir Trail, Tweed unfolds the rich history of the National Park System. He argues for the reform of its management policies—reforms necessary to meet the demands of our changing climate. He identifies issues that have been ignored and proposes the redefinition of the NPS covenant. By embedding forest science into his evocative wilderness stories, Tweed teaches us the foundations of wilderness management. His book is a timely and honest assessment of the future of America’s backcountry.

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