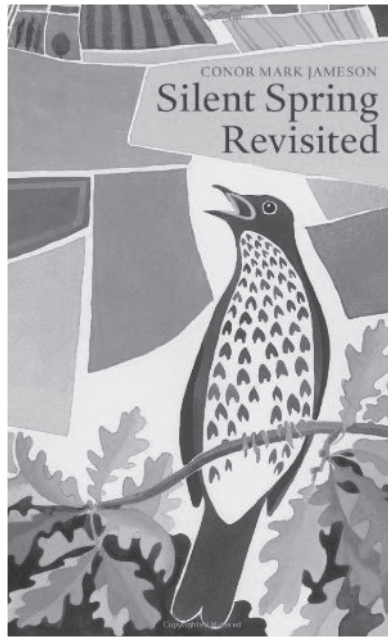


'Silent Spring Revisited'

By Stacia A. Novy

"Silent Spring Revisited" provides a dramatic blow-by-blow account of the environmental movement in Europe over the past 50 years. Conor Jameson's journalistic account is, at once, exhilarating and maddening: Exhilarating because passionate individuals around the globe fight daily for wildlife conservation, habitat restoration and the preservation of Earth's resources; maddening because those individuals face the same short-sighted political, capitalistic, and economic barriers in all corners of the world.

For each hard-won victory in favor of conservation, a score of others are lost. Sorrow and despair follow a



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288 pages

Loony Bird Photo of the Season



Red-tailed Hawk turns its head in an unusual way, likely observing prey.

Photo taken in Lake County 25 June 2011 by Robert Visconti.

If you have any loony bird photos, send them to sdbailey@illinois.edu.

laundry list of plowed native meadows, polluted streams and poisoned eagles. Anger builds with the empty promises of politicians, businessmen, and officials who really ought to know better.

Especially poignant are Jameson's efforts to restore disturbed, remnant habitat near his own home. He plants hedgerows, constructs nest boxes, and searches for long-lost birds in the hope that some might still remain to quell persistent rumors of extinction.

And in rare moments, Jameson and others succeed: An isolated colony of Eurasian Tree Sparrows survives in town, water voles persist in a semi-urban landscape, an unknown Corn Crake appears at the edge of a marsh, and Peregrine Falcons, once again, command the coastal cliffs of England. At the mention of these success stories, the reader's spirit soars in tandem with the author's.

Silent Spring Revisited is an enlightening read for anyone interested in wildlife conservation. It documents the history of environmentalism in Europe, but in so doing, reveals the heartbreak and fear, insight and hope, struggle and continued vigil of the many conservationists who uphold it as an ideal. The same could be said of Rachel Carson's book. I highly recommend reading both works of literature. Begin with Carson's "Silent Spring" and follow with Jameson's "Silent Spring Revisited" to learn where the movement has taken us in subsequent years.

Stacia Novy is a medical laboratory instructor and quality assurance coordinator for the U.S. Air Force and is a graduate student in zoology and ornithology at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

She can be reached at novyaviano@hotmail.com.