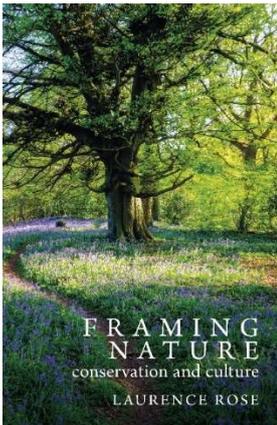




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Beautifully-written new book reveals how wildlife conservation requires a cultural shift



Framing Nature: conservation and culture

by Laurence Rose

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13 linocut illustrations

“Rose is excellent on the science that informs our understanding Impressive.”

– Mark Cocker, *New Statesman* on *The Long Spring* by Laurence Rose

In lockdown Britain the unfamiliar quiet was filled with the previously unnoticed sounds of birdsong. In Indian cities, children were astonished to discover that the sky was blue. Among the dark tragedy of a pandemic, we are discovering a new hope for the natural world.

British wildlife conservationist, Laurence Rose, spent two years exploring the cultural roots of our relationship with the rest of nature in order to map out its future. In *Framing Nature*, he describes his encounters with wildlife in exquisite language and vivid detail – from the magnificent white-tailed eagles of Orkney and Mull to the fascinating world of ants and crickets on the southern heaths.

This is a book about the complexity and vulnerability of nature, and the unexpected connections between people and wildlife. While his writing builds on decades of experience as a leading conservationist, this is literary non-fiction at its finest and Laurence’s passion shines from every page.

Taking the form of a series of essays, part one of *Framing Nature* depicts our relationship with nine individual species, including the nightingale, the otter and the badger, celebrating their heritage and telling their fascinating stories from past to present. Despite many successes – the otter among them – our current conservation model is unable to stem the losses that wildlife is suffering overall. In fact, some of the lesser-known species explored in the

book, such as the willow tit, are featured in *Back from the Brink*, an ambitious eight-organisation project which aims to save England's most threatened species from extinction

By analysing the evolving cultural attitudes that govern our relationship with nature, we gain insight into why conservation succeeds or fails. Sometimes we celebrate wildlife in poetry and literature, like *Tarka the Otter*; at other times we exploit animals like the fox for blood sports, or demonise creatures for being inconvenient predators on our farm land.

Part two of *Framing Nature* presents alternative ways of thinking about the protection of wildlife and touches on the impact of current factors at play, including government policy, HS2, Brexit and Covid. Drawing together the themes of the book, Laurence offers solutions for a future of tolerant coexistence between our species and others.

Conserving wildlife requires a cultural shift, and *Framing Nature* is unflinching in questioning whether we are prepared to commit to it. Ultimately the book offers a message of hope to rebuild a mutually-beneficial relationship with nature. But we need to act urgently.

About the Author:

Laurence Rose is a leading wildlife conservationist who has worked in more than twenty countries to save species from extinction and defend the most important places for wildlife. He joined the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in 1983 and is currently Change Manager for *Back from the Brink*, a hugely ambitious, eight-organisation, multi-million pound collaboration for threatened species recovery across all nature.

After more than three decades in mainstream conservation he is using his writing to challenge government, society and the conservation sector itself to adopt a more radical, urgent approach. His previous book *The Long Spring* was published in 2018, and *Framing Nature* is published in October 2020. Laurence is also a writer, composer and artistic collaborator. All his writing originates from direct personal experience and mindful observation. Originally from Kent, he has lived in rural West Yorkshire since 1999. <https://laurencerose.co.uk/>

Praise for Laurence Rose's other writings on nature:

"Language so beautiful it sings." – *Sunday Express*

"An inspiring, eye-opening read." – *The Spectator*

"Each landscape comes to life." – *Daily Telegraph*

For a review copy of *Framing Nature* or to arrange an interview with Laurence Rose, please contact: Katherine Lowe, Tel: 07887 948795 or email: katlowecomms@gmail.com

Gritstone Publishing Cooperative is Britain's first publishing cooperative run by authors, for authors. Gritstone specialises in publishing non-fiction and fiction titles relating to the landscape and the countryside. Its six members are all highly experienced outdoor writers and journalists.

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Postscript