

BOOK NOTICES

RICHARD J. NEVLE AND STEVEN NIGHTINGALE. Illustrations by Mattias Lanas. 2022. **The Paradise Notebooks: 90 Miles Across the Sierra Nevada**. (ISBN-13: 978-1-5017-6269-7, hbk). Comstock Publishing Associates, An Imprint of, Cornell University Press, Sage House, 512 East State St., Ithaca, New York 14850, U.S.A. (**Orders:** cornellpress.cornell.edu). \$29.95 US, 189 pp., notes, references, index, 6" × 9".

From the publisher: Over the course of twenty-one pairs of short essays, Nevle and Nightingale contemplate the natural phenomena found in the Sierra Nevada. From granite to aspen, to fire, to a rare, endemic species of butterfly, these essay pairs explore the natural history and mystical wonder of each element with a balanced and captivating touch. As they weave in vignettes from their ninety-mile backpacking trip across the range, Nevle and Nightingale powerfully reconceive the Sierra Nevada as both earthly matter and transcendental offering, letting us into a reality in which nature holds just as much spiritual importance as it does physical.

In a time of rapid environmental degradation, *The Paradise Notebooks* offers a way forward—a whole-minded, learned, loving attention to place that rekindles our joyful relationship with the living world.

About the author: **Richard J. Nevle** is Deputy Director of the Earth Systems Program at Stanford University and the author of numerous scientific articles.

Steven Nightingale teaches poetry in schools and universities in Nevada and California. He is the author of ten books, including the short fiction collection *The Hot Climate of Promises and Grace*.

I love the writing of this book and the poetry that is sprinkled throughout the pages. I find poetry educational in my own conversation with people and through my public lectures. In the Preface are words that seem to define my own love and respect for nature. Having grown up on a farm in sw Oklahoma, I can appreciate all life, even the tiniest of life as well as the sights and sounds from nature from sunrise to sunset. For me, this section of the Preface seems worth repeating exactly as it is written for these words reflect upon the authors and their story about the Sierra Nevada. "Whatever my search, I have found that the pursuit of scientific inquiry—its own, necessarily limited kind of truth-seeking—can be as much an act of devotion as it is scholarly meditation. For to pay attention to the world, to seek its stories, to run your fingers along some crack of rock or furrow of tree bark, to admire a raptor in flight, to look, closely, at the construction of a previously unencountered wildflower—to wonder and to seek answers to how these things might have come to in the world—are themselves acts of devotion, ways of knowing, ways of longing for communion. As Diane Ackerman has written, 'There is a way of beholding nature that is itself a form of prayer.' As the author, Richard J. Nevle, says, "The essays and poems in this book are love letters to the Sierra Nevada—to its bones of rock; to the clouds and glaciers and rivers and fires that have shaped it; to the living beings, large and small, who inhabit it. Our essays and poems are meditations on both the grandeur and the minutiae of the Sierra Nevada." You, too, will fall in love with the Sierra Nevada with this book.

—Barney Lipscomb, Fort Worth Botanic Garden | Botanical Research Institute of Texas
1700 University Dr., Fort Worth, Texas 76107-3400, U.S.A.

PAUL E. ROTHROCK. 2021. **Sedges of Indiana and the Adjacent States. The *Carex* species. Vol. 2**. (ISBN-13: 978-0-912456-00-3, hbk.). Indiana Academy of Science (**Orders:** <https://www.indianaacademyofscience.org/>). \$55 (non members of IAS); \$45 (members). 376 pp, 385 color plates, 12 tables, keys, maps, 5 appendices, glossary, index. 6¼" × 9¼".

Review forthcoming.