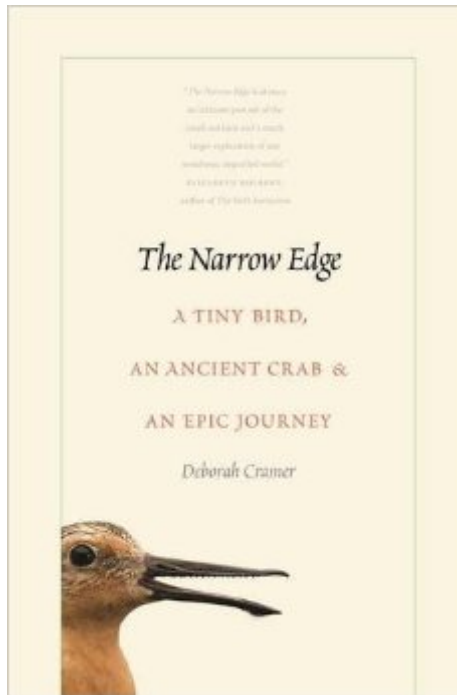


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# The Narrow Edge: A Tiny Bird, An Ancient Crab, And An Epic Journey



## Synopsis

In a volume as urgent and eloquent as Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, this book--winner of the Southern Environmental Law Center's 2016 Reed Environmental Writing Award in the book category--reveals how the health and well-being of a tiny bird and an ancient crab mirrors our own. \*\* Winner of the 2016 Rachel Carson Environment Book Award given by the Society of Environmental Journalists. \*\* Each year, red knots, sandpipers weighing no more than a coffee cup, fly a near-miraculous 19,000 miles from the tip of South America to their nesting grounds in the Arctic and back. Along the way, they double their weight by gorging on millions of tiny horseshoe crab eggs. Horseshoe crabs, ancient animals that come ashore but once a year, are vital to humans, too: their blue blood safeguards our health. Now, the rufa red knot, newly listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, will likely face extinction in the foreseeable future across its entire range, 40 states and 27 countries. The first United States bird listed because global warming imperils its existence, it will not be the last: the red knot is the twenty-first century's oecanary in the coal mine. • Logging thousands of miles following the knots, shivering with the birds out on the snowy tundra, tracking them down in bug-infested marshes, Cramer vividly portrays what's at stake for millions of shorebirds and hundreds of millions of people living at the sea edge. *The Narrow Edge* offers an uplifting portrait of the tenacity of tiny birds and of the many people who, on the sea edge we all share, keep knots flying and offer them safe harbor. \*\* Winner of the 2016 National Academies Communications Award for best book that honors the best in science communications. Sponsored by the Keck Futures Initiative -- a program of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, with the support of the W.M. Keck Foundation. \*\*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The natural world is full of so many many wondrous things, and the amazing seasonal journeys of the Red Knot from the southern tip of South America along the eastern seaboard of the United States to the high Arctic is surely one of them. These birds and many other shore birds like them travel many, many miles on the wing, often only stopping a few times to refuel as they continue on their journey to their nesting grounds. These travels as well as the intricate connection the Red Knot has with the Horseshoe Crab, whose eggs in May are a prime food source, are chronicled beautiful in this wonderful book by Deborah Cramer. Ms. Cramer is an extremely skilled nature writer and her description of the landscapes, the birds, and the intricate ways the various ecological webs she discusses are intertwined and their inherent fragility should one integral piece be removed made for a wonderful reading experience. Cramer also writes of the various people she encounters in her quest to follow the trail of the Red Knot on it's lengthy migration route, from biologists, native peoples, farmers, birders, and conservationists, all fascinating individuals with a true connection in one way or another to the land and the birds they share it with. It is not all the rapture of nature and the wonderful humans that care about it though.

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