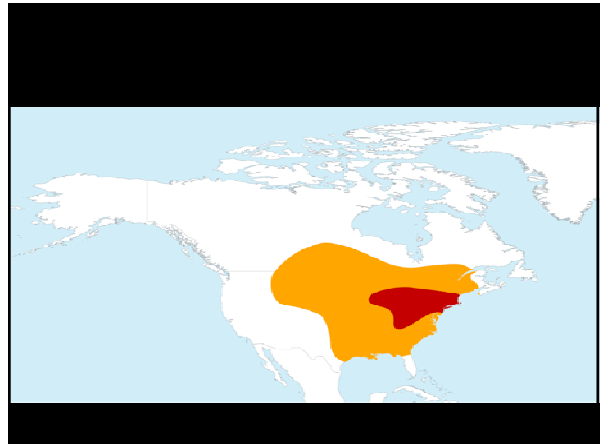


Environmental Movement



- One large nesting area in Wisconsin was reported as covering 850 square miles (2,200 km²), and the number of birds nesting there was estimated to be around 136,000,000.
- In 1857, a bill was brought forth to the Ohio State Legislature seeking protection for the Passenger Pigeon.
- They said it didn't need protection

Attempts at Preservation

- Senate said:
 - The passenger pigeon needs no protection. Wonderfully prolific, having the vast forests of the North as its breeding grounds, traveling hundreds of miles in search of food, it is here today and elsewhere tomorrow, and no ordinary destruction can lessen them, or be missed from the myriads that are yearly produced."
- By the mid 1890s, the Passenger Pigeon had almost completely disappeared
- In 1897, a bill was introduced in the Michigan legislature asking for a ten-year closed season on Passenger Pigeons

Early Days 1800-1900

- 1820's James Fenimore Cooper author of *Last of the Mohicans* was first to articulate environmentalisms 3 basic principals.
 - Natural resources are not infinite
 - Natural environment must be preserved for future generations.
 - Human activities can endanger earth.
- Novel was *The Pioneers and the Prairie*.

- In the late 1800's Henry David Thoreau & Ralph Waldo Emerson write books that inspired environmentalists.
- Theodore Roosevelt (1901-09)
 - First president to act on environmental concerns.
 - Helped found US Forest service & National parks.

John Muir

- Founded Sierra club in 1913
- Helped Create Yosemite National Park



- Walked 1000 miles from Indiana to Florida
 - No path except to go by the "wildest, leafiest, and least trodden way I could find."
- Lived nomadically in the Sierras
- Built a cabin and lived for 2 years writing book
- First to suggest that Yosemite was formed by glaciers.
- Befriended Roosevelt, Emerson, and others for the cause for preserving environment.

Early Splits

- Preservationists- wanted to save environment for its own sake.
- Conservationists- wanted to save environment so that humans could use the resources infinitely.

Evolution of the Movement

- *Our Vanishing Wildlife* 1913
 - William Hornaby about Passenger Pigeon
- *A Sand County Almanac* 1949
 - Aldo Leopold wrote what some say is the most important book on conservation
 - Over 2 million copies were sold
 - Pioneered Environmental Stewardship
 - Published 2 years after his death by his son.

- "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community . It is wrong when it tends otherwise."
 - The seminal essay "Thinking Like a Mountain" describes the death of she-wolf killed by his party during a time when conservationists were operating under the assumption that elimination of top predators would make game plentiful.

Other Events

- 1930's Dustbowl
 - Do to bad farming techniques (and weather)
- 1956 Minamata bay (Japan)
 - Over 900 people killed
 - Many disfigures
 - Mercury poisoning from factory discharge.
 - Plant kept discharging mercury until 1968

The Modern Environmental Movement

- *Silent Spring (1962)*
 - Rachel Carson
- Wrote about how pesticides were traveling up the food chain, and killing birds.
- Also DDT was finding way up to people and leading to cancer.
- Was great catalyst for movement

Movement Goes Global (70s)

- Important NGOs formed
 - Non Government Organizations
- Friends of the Earth & Greenpeace 1971
- 1972 First “Earth Summit” held in Sweden
 - 113 nations attended.
 - Promised to meet every 10 years
- 1975 Convention of International trade in Endangered Animals (CITES)
 - Formed IUCN (World Conservation Union)
 - 173 nations

Stewardship

- 1979 *Gaia- A New Look at Life on Earth*
 - James Lovelace
- Gaia Theory – Earth is a single integrated system.
- Encouraged environmentalist to take Systems approach to environment
 - Like us in the IB system
- Humans as steward to take care of Environment