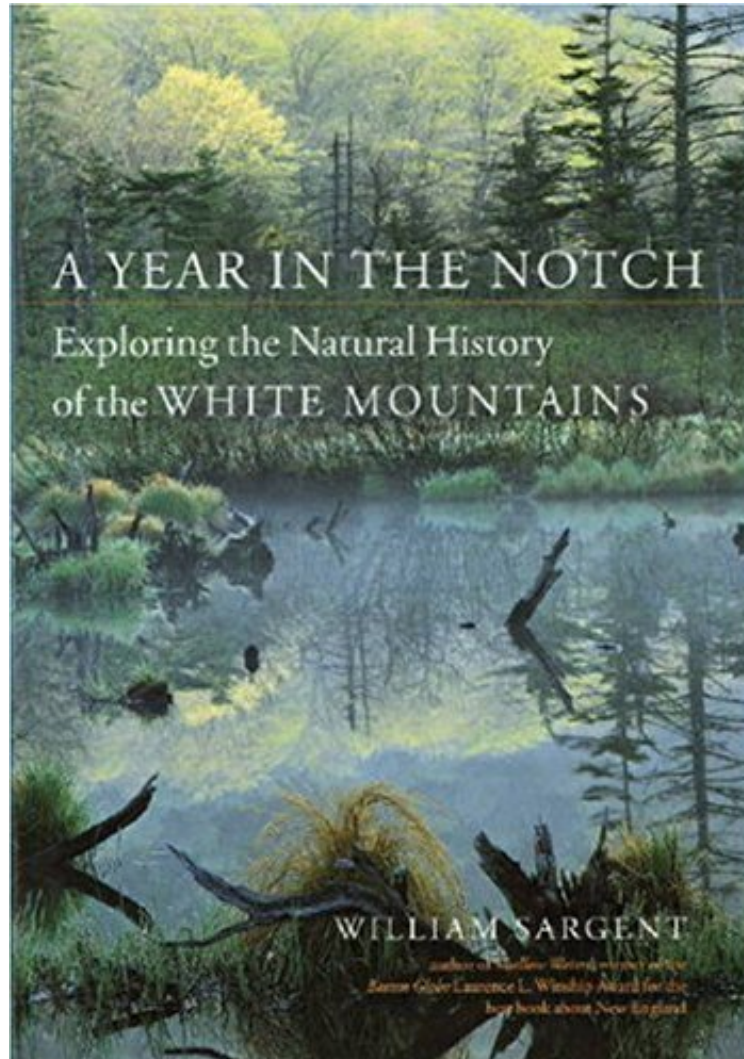


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A Year in the Notch: Exploring the Natural History of the White Mountains

William Sargent

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William Sargent : A Year in the Notch: Exploring the Natural History of the White Mountains before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Year in the Notch: Exploring the Natural History of the White Mountains:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not quite what I was looking for By Reviewer123456789I was looking for a natural history of the white mountains. Sargent's book is more of a journal with some interesting asides on biological topics but I felt I was skipping over a lot of the content looking for something new. I also did not feel much confidence in the science, where I could find it. When an authority consistently mis-spells the younger dryas as

the younger dryas it doesn't instill much confidence. I'm also not sure that the asteroid that hit the Yucatan causing the extinction of the dinosaurs was the size of Texas. I don't think anybody knows that. Overall, it was a bit simplistic and wearisome to read. Not what I was looking for. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read Bill Bryson instead. By Ken Zirkel William Sargent is kind of the poor man's Bill Bryson: he gives natural history and geologic background while trying to maintain a loose narrative structure, and he succeeds about as often as he fails. I thought this book was going to be some kind of adventure tale of roughing it for a year, but it turns out that Sargent lives in the Notch, and kept a diary for a year. The book as a whole is kind of like the pictures in it: occasionally interesting, but fall short of being really beautiful because they're rendered in poor-quality black-and-white printing.

In the same format and style of his prize-winning *Shallow Waters*, William Sargent's latest book chronicles a year spent exploring the North Woods of New Hampshire. Through words and photographs, the man about whom *Publishers Weekly* wrote, "With his fine descriptions and lucid explanations, Sargent joins the company of Lewis Thomas and Stephen Jay Gould as a first rate interpreter of modern science" investigates a new area's geology, ecology, and natural history. Centered primarily in the Franconia Notch, the book ranges to include Mount Washington Observatory, Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Palermo Mine, and New Hampshire Audubon's Peregrine Tagging Program. In a series of lyrical chapters, Sargent takes readers into vernal ponds and moose yards, up mountain summits and into the dens of hibernating bears. He shows that the present pattern of evergreen and deciduous trees we think of as natural is actually the result of centuries of human alteration. Describing how humans have become the newest geophysical force shaping our planet, he ruminates on how well the earth's immune system can withstand the onslaught. Offering up-to-date science on the geology and biology of New England, *A Year in the Notch* explains the interaction between life, rocks, and water -- the intricate dance that keeps our planet alive and makes our own existence possible.

From the Publisher 7 x 10 trim. 199 photos. LC 00-011954 From the Inside Flap Detective Joe Friday said, Just the facts, ma'am. Trombonist Jack Teagarden said Say it simple. And here comes science writer Bill Sargent, giving us a proper natural history, with no pretentious philosophizing and no overwrought epiphanies. I say Hurray. Jake Page, author of *Songs to Birds* About the Author WILLIAM SARGENT is a consultant for the NOVA Science Series and has written six books about science and the environment, including *Storm Surge: A Coastal Village Battles the Rising Atlantic* (1995) and *The Year of the Crab: Marine Animals in Modern Medicine* (1988). His *Shallow Waters: A Year on Cape Cod's Pleasant Bay* (1981) received the Boston Globe Winship award for the best book about New England and was the basis for a NOVA film, *The Sea Behind the Dunes*, selected by the National Audubon Society as the best natural history film of the year. Formerly Director of the Baltimore Aquarium and a research assistant at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Sargent presently teaches at The Briarwood Center for Marine Biology and at Harvard University.