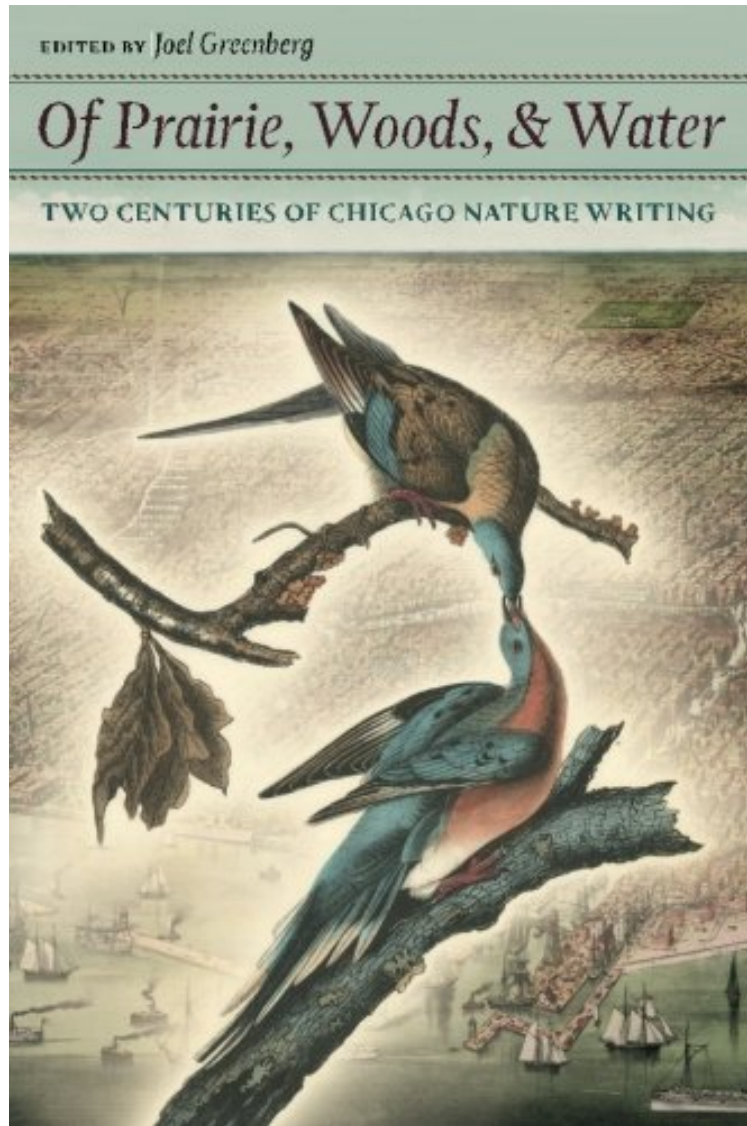


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Of Prairie, Woods, and Water: Two Centuries of Chicago Nature Writing

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From Joel Greenberg : Of Prairie, Woods, and Water: Two Centuries of Chicago Nature Writing before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Of Prairie, Woods, and Water: Two Centuries of Chicago Nature Writing:

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200 years of the natural of the Chicagoland area.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Read!By MIPI keep this book on my nightstand for a quick read. Joel Greenberg did a great job with this book. The writings are well organized into groups: Landscape, Botany, Land Animals, Water World, Mindscapes. He also researched and included biographical information on the authors when the information was available to him. A few of the writings are anonymous. I like the fact that he did not edit the essays from their original format.A few of my favorites are "A Hoosier Tramp" by Samuel A. Harper, "Tragedy in the Home of the Owls" by Edward B. Clark and the poem "On Improving The Property" by May T. Watts. But as I thumb through the book again I see many others that I could easily say are my favorite. I found myself reading the biographical info before reading the essay. I wanted to know a little about the authors and the time frame first.Great read. Check it out!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful natural history anthologyBy IndyDonIn writing his magnificent Natural History of the Chicago Region, Joel Greenberg came across many interesting writings from early settlers. He put these aside and searched for additional writings after his Natural History of the Chicago Region was published. He assembled the writings in this volume. Individual essays, most written in the 1800s and very early 1900s, run anywhere from less than a page to several pages. The essays are grouped by the main subject of the writing. So, the book is broken down into the categories: Landscape, Botany, Land Animals, Waterworld, and Mindscape. All of the writings come from the greater Chicago region. Greenberg picked the top essays and I enjoyed virtually all of them. This is really a wonderful collection of obscure and otherwise hard to find nature writings. It can be enjoyed by anyone but those in the Midwest might find it the most appealing.

In the literary imagination, Chicago evokes images of industry and unbridled urban growth. But the tallgrass prairie and deep forests that once made up Chicagos landscape also inspired musings from residents and visitors alike. In *Of Prairie, Woods, and Water*, naturalist Joel Greenberg gathers these unique voices from the land to present an unexpected portrait of Chicago in this often charming, sometimes heart-wrenching anthology of nature writing.

"A defining piece of history.... What Mike Royko's Boss did for Chicago politics, Greenberg's book does for the region's natural history." - Dale Bowman, *Chicago Sun-Times* "We may not regain the awe of the French explorers, but if nothing else, Greenberg's book will induce some renewed respect for a rich, obstinate, parallel universe. And that call for esteem, or at least tolerance, makes the book a little revolution in itself, as beautifully stubborn as the lakeside daisy, the scraps of prairie grass and the wildflowers sprouting, against all odds, beside the railway tracks." - Raphael Kadushin, *Chicago Tribune*"About the AuthorJoel Greenberg is a naturalist, writer, and environmental consultant. He is the author of *A Natural History of the Chicago Region* and coauthor of *A Birders Guide to the Chicago Region*.