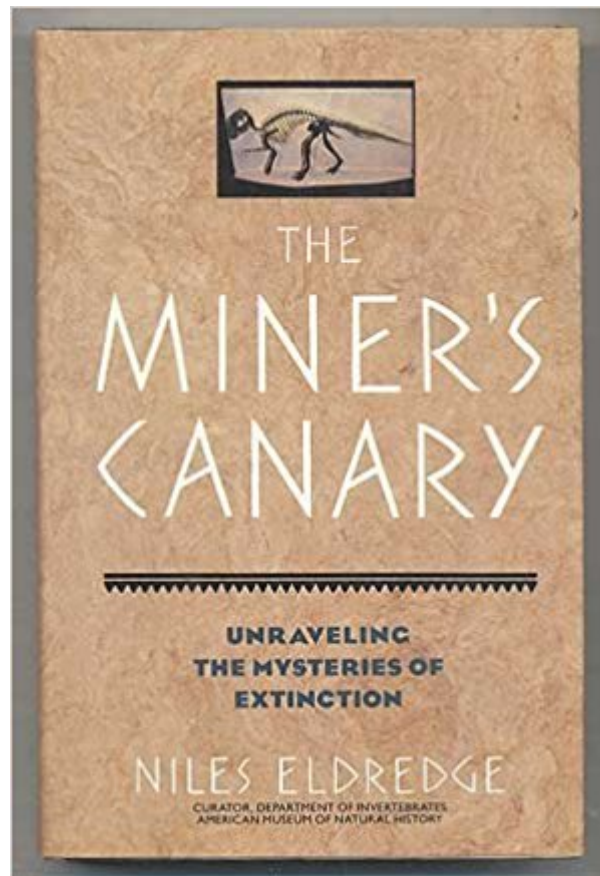


The book was found

# The Miner's Canary: Unraveling The Mysteries Of Extinction



## Synopsis

Like the bird whose death signaled dangerous conditions in a mine, the demise of animals that once flourished should give humans pause. How is our fate linked to the earth's creatures, and the cycle of flourishing and extinction? Which are the simple workings of nature's order, and which are omens of ecological disaster? Does human activity accelerate extinction? What really causes it? In an illuminating and elegantly written account of the widespread reduction of the world's wildlife, renowned paleontologist Niles Eldredge poses these questions and examines humankind's role in the larger life cycles of the earth, composing a provocative general theory of extinction. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 246 pages

Publisher: Prentice Hall Trade; 1st edition (October 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 013583659X

ISBN-13: 978-0135836590

Product Dimensions: 1 x 6 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #5,115,162 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Paleontology > Paleobiology](#) #3844 in [Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Biology & Life Sciences > Ecology](#) #12486 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Ecology](#)

## Customer Reviews

Eldredge, curator and chairman of the department of invertebrates at New York City's American Museum of Natural History, surveys the last 670 million years, examining factors that cause extinction without human intervention and, later, the effects of human action. Offering a theory that links the distant past to the present, he observes that most mass extinctions occurred slowly over a very long period (up to five million years); he points out that by the time dinosaurs vanished forever, most of their species had already become extinct. Noting that the move to agriculture signaled the destruction of animal habitats, Eldredge concludes that change of size and location of habitat underlies most instances of extinction, from isolated species disappearances to mass extinction. In the matter of ecosystem degradation, he maintains, it is our existence that is at stake. A stimulating

and persuasive argument. Science Book Club and Library of Science Book Club alternates.

Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Because of their sensitivity to dangerous gases, canaries were once kept in mines to warn miners of potential disaster. In this book, paleontologist Eldredge, author of *Life Pulse* ( LJ 2/1/87) and other books dealing with evolution and the history of life, notes that the decline of migrating songbirds may likewise signal catastrophe, but on a global scale. He reviews the evidence for extinction and its causes, primarily using fossil evidence and focusing on climatic change and loss of habitat. This book is aimed at the same interested lay readers as David Raup's *Extinction* ( LJ 8/91), but differs in its focus and its more wide-ranging discussion. If forced to choose between the two, pick this one.- Joseph Hannibal, Cleveland Museum of Natural HistoryCopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is a reasonable book for someone who knows nothing about the history of extinctions, or evolution and historical geology, in general. Eldredge takes great pains to describe the phenomenon of extinction (background and mass) in the most popular terms possible. He also tries to inject some humanity into his narrative by introducing ideas and their originators at the same time. This is a game effort, but the scientists never really become more than names to the reader. One of Eldredge's goals is to introduce the absolutely uninitiated to the idea that *Homo sapiens* is not responsible for most extinctions in Earth history. For readers still hazy about the fact that our genus is only about 3.5 million years old and that life has been around for at least 3.5 billion years, this is a good lesson to pound across. For everyone else it will seem like a dogged repetition of the obvious. When one finished reading this book extinction will definitely be a lot less mysterious, but I don't think it will have been made much more interesting.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Miner's Canary: Unraveling the Mysteries of Extinction The Miner's Canary: Enlisting Race, Resisting Power, Transforming Democracy (The Nathan I. Huggins Lectures) Canary Islands 25 Secrets - The Locals Travel Guide For Your Trip to the Canary Islands and Tenerife 2017: Skip the tourist traps and explore like a local : Where to Go, Eat & Party Extinction Point (Extinction Point Series Book 1) Wired to Create: Unraveling the Mysteries of the Creative Mind Sea of Darkness: Unraveling the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley The Secret Life of Lobsters: How Fishermen and Scientists Are Unraveling the Mysteries of Our Favorite Crustacean (P.S.) Sneaking a Look at God's Cards: Unraveling the Mysteries of Quantum Mechanics Warped Passages: Unraveling the

Mysteries of the Universe's Hidden Dimensions Secrets of the Savanna: Twenty-three Years in the African Wilderness Unraveling the Mysteries of Elephants and People Secrets of the Savanna: Twenty-three Years in the African Wilderness Unraveling the Mysteries of Elephants and People Loretta Lynn: Coal Miner's Daughter Litecoin: The Ultimate Beginner's Guide for Understanding Litecoins And What You Need to Know (Beginning, Mining, Step by Step, Miner, Exposed, Trading, Basics, LTC, Cryptocurrency) Bitcoin: The ultimate guide to buying, selling, mining and investing in bitcoins. Be the best bitcoin miner and fill your wallet Miner Minecraft Memes: Unofficial Minecraft Memes & Jokes 2017 - Memes for Kids, Memes Free, Minecraft Building, Minecraft Handbook, Pikachu Books MEMES: Spiderman Homecoming Memes, Ultimate Memes, Guardians of the Galaxy Memes, Harry Potter Memes, Miner Minecraft Memes, DC Comics, Pikachu Books , Memes Free, Memes XII MEMES: Ultimate Memes & Jokes Books 2017 - BONUS Pikachu and Harry Potter Jokes, NEW MEMES: Funny Memes, Dank Memes, Memes for Kids, Memes Free, Minecraft Miner Memes, Minecraft Building, Memes XI Mail Order Bride: A Rich Miner for the Poor Widow with Twin Babies (Two is Better Than One Book 3) Miner's Survival Handbook: Unofficial 2015 Box Set of Minecraft Cheats, Seeds, Redstone, Mods, House and More! Canary

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)