

So many of the conservation successes I've witnessed during my career can be attributed to the Endangered Species Act—a law that has withstood the test of time thanks to its solid grounding in shared conservation values. The preamble to the ESA recognizes that endangered and threatened species of wildlife and plants “are of esthetic, ecological, educational, historic, recreational, and scientific value to the Nation and its people.” The intrinsic value placed on the presence of diverse and abundant plant and animal species on the landscape has long been hailed as a fundamental American principle. That value has been shared throughout centuries of U.S. conservation history by Native American tribes, western settlers, hunters and anglers, property owners, scientists, conservation professionals and the average American citizen. In addition to their intrinsic value, many threatened and endangered species provide tangible services and benefits to humans, playing valuable roles in providing us with clean water, food, medicines and more.

The sudden extirpation of the passenger pigeon at the turn of the 20th Century—a bird that had numbered in the billions just decades prior—underscores that without adequate safeguards, even the most common species can vanish forever in the blink of an eye.

Excerpt from Clark's February 15, 2017 testimony before the Committee on Environment and Public Works, U.S. Senate, by Jamie Rappaport Clark

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#PoetsForScience

Instructions

Create an Emerge poem using the excerpt on the front of this card. Mark out words and phrases with a marker so that other expressions can *Emerge* from the author's original work. Share your work through social media and tag your poem with #PoetsForScience and #TravelingStanzas. Also consider sharing to #ScienceMarch. If you'd like, mail your poem to a friend or loved one by using a first class stamp. Through the collaborative efforts of The Wick Poetry Center and The March For Science we proudly stand together to advocate for the conservation of our environment and the importance of science through the intimate and inclusive voice of poetry.



The Poets For Science Collection
Curated by Jane Hirshfield

Visit Science.TravelingStanzas.com
Experience all of the #PoetsForScience Emerge poems in an online collection, read poems about nature and science, and download printable signs and posters for the march

Visit MarchForScience.com
Please visit the online home of the march to learn more and get involved

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