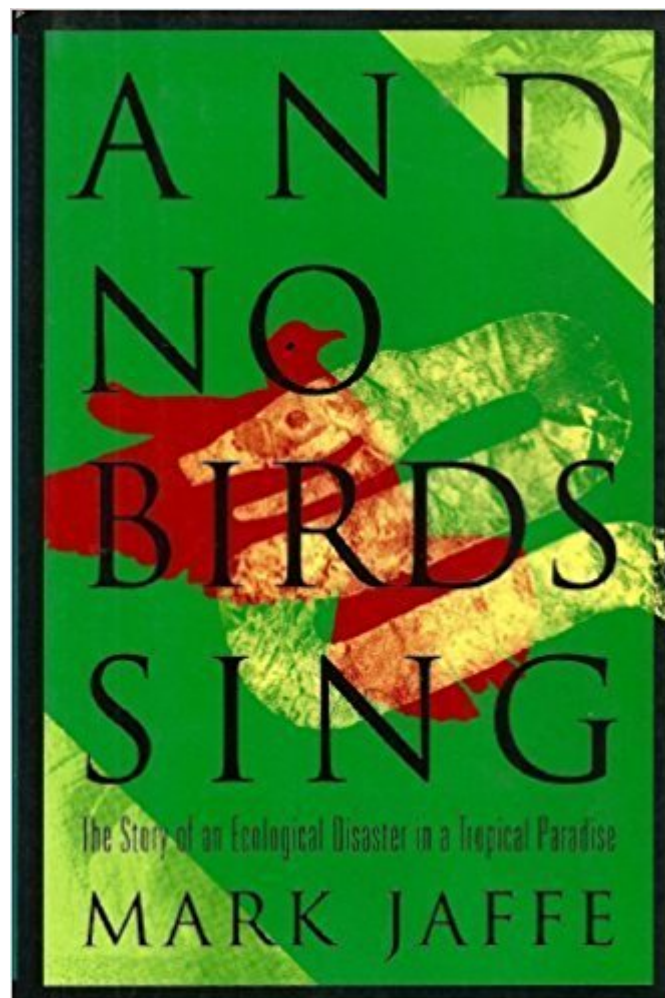




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And No Birds Sing: The Story Of An Ecological Disaster In A Tropical Paradise



Synopsis

A fascinating investigation into the reasons behind the extinction of birds on Guam becomes a cautionary environmental detective story as scientists discover that an imported snake with no natural enemies has decimated the island's birds. 15,000 first printing.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (1 customer review)

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Customer Reviews

This account of efforts to understand and deal with threatened bird extinctions on Guam is a gem of a book. The paperback's blurbs focused on Jaffe's "ecological detective thriller." But I found most compelling the seamlessness of the book's widely-informed joined elements -- including biographical and political sketches of great pith, accessible population biology, and a good-scientists-versus-stupid-and-finally-thwarted-others story. The ecological culprit was not some natural substance, and not even one of homo sapiens' products (the book's index lists only three references to DDT). Nor was he us. But he was (and is) one of our fellows -- a little predator incredibly well adapted to feeding on birds' eggs. After the paucity and untimeliness of the governmental response to the Guamanian situation had sunk into my consciousness, it seemed ironic that the book ends with the United States Air Force establishing a 50-acre "environmental reclamation experiment" on Guam which Jaffe hopes will provide the setting for much more effective research on the culprit. Like *The Lord of the Flies* ends with her majesty's warship rescuing from themselves the band of island-stranded, warring boys.

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