

Citizen Scientist: Searching for Heroes and Hope in an Age of Extinction

Mary Ellen Hannibal

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If climate change has you down and you're traumatized by the thought of another critical species being lost to extinction, here's something to think about: all your heartfelt empathy doesn't do diddly-squat to help the planet. What's needed is a critical mass of get-off-your-ass-tivism, as outlined by Mary Ellen Hannibal in *Citizen Scientist*. Hannibal advocates for participatory research, the longstanding tradition of amateur naturalists engaging in whale watching, bee counting, tide-pool monitoring, and other forms of nature observation. The data collected can then be shared on iNaturalist, Google Earth Outreach, Google Maps, and similar technologies which "allow us to observe with consequence." Part personal adventure story and natural history, Hannibal proves herself to be an inspiring writer.

MATT SUTHERLAND (Winter 2017)

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