Contents

List of Illustrations xi

Preface
The Poetry of Earth Is Never Dead xiii

Introduction
Care in Such a World 1

PART ONE
“stony rocks for the conies”
Singing Ecology unto the Lord 19

“Western wind, when will thou blow”
Anon Was an Environmentalist 28

“The stationary blasts of waterfalls”
Blake, the Wordsworths, and the Dung 34

“The white Eddy-rose . . . obstinate in resurrection”
Coleridge Imagining 39

“last oozings hours by hours”
John Keats Eking It Out 46

“Its only bondage was the circling sky”
John Clare at Home in Helpston 56
“Nature was naked, and I was also”
Adamic Walt Whitman  64

“Earth’s most graphic transaction”
Syllables of Emily Dickinson  75

“sick leaves . . . storm-birds . . . rotten rose . . . rain-drop”
Nature Shadowing Thomas Hardy  88

“freshness deep down things”
The World Charged by Gerard Manley Hopkins  94

“O honey bees, / Come build in the empty house of the stare”
Nature Versus History in W. B. Yeats  104

PART TWO

“strangeness from my sight”
Robert Frost and the Fun in How You Say a Thing  115

“white water rode the black forever”
Frost and the Necessity of Metaphor  123

“Larks singing over No Man’s Land”
England Thanks to Edward Thomas, 1914–1917  130

“the necessary angel of earth”
Wings of Wallace Stevens  136

“broken / seedhusks”
Reviving America with William Carlos Williams  141

“source then a blue as”
Williams and the Environmental News  149

“room for me and a mountain lion”
D. H. Lawrence in Taormina and Taos  162

“not man / Apart”
Ocean, Rock, Hawk, and Robinson Jeffers  170
“submerged shafts of the / / sun, / split like spun / glass”
Marianne Moore’s Fantastic Reverence  176

“There, there where those black spruces crowd”
To Steepletop and Ragged Island with Edna St. Vincent Millay  184

“Gale sustained on a slope”
Pablo Neruda at Machu Picchu  194

“the wild / braid of creation / trembles”
Stanley Kunitz—His Nettled Field, His Dune Garden  202

“Bright trout poised in the current”
Things Whole and Holy for Kenneth Rexroth  211

“I swayed out on the wildest wave alive”
Theodore Roethke from Greenhouse to Seascape  216

“That they are there!”
George Oppen’s Psalm of Attentiveness  223

“surprised at seeing”
Elizabeth Bishop Traveling  228

“Why is your mouth all green?”
Something Alive in May Swenson  239

PART THREE
“care in such a world”
Earth Home to William Stafford  251

“The season’s ill”
America’s Angst and Robert Lowell’s  259

“that witnessing presence”
Life Illumined Around Denise Levertov  266

“the tree making us / look again”
Shirley Kaufman’s Roots in the Air  275
“that the rock might see”
*News of the North from John Haines*  282

“asking for my human breath”
*Trust in Maxine Kumin*  290

“What are you doing out here / this windy”
*Wind in the Reeds in the Voice of A. R. Ammons*  294

“between the earth and silence”
*W. S. Merwin’s Motion of Mind*  301

“bear blood” and “Blackberry Eating”
*Zest of Galway Kinnell*  309

“Kicking the Leaves”
*Donald Hall and Jane Kenyon at Eagle Pond Farm*  318

“I dared not cast / / But silently cast”
*Ted Hughes Capturing Pike*  327

“the still pond and the egrets beating home”
*Derek Walcott, First to See Them*  335

“It looks just like the Cascades”
*Gary Snyder’s Eye for the Real World*  344

“Just imagine”
*Can Poetry Save the Earth?*  355

Sources  359
Text Credits  373
Acknowledgments  378
Index  381
Illustrations

BLACK AND WHITE

Scared Buffalo 11
God creating the birds sees Adam in His thought 22
Western Wind 28
Dorothy Wordsworth 36
Waterfall at Ambleside 48
Keats, “To Autumn” 51
John Clare, Glossary page 59
Helpston, before and after Enclosure 60–61
Walt Whitman, 1855 65
Emily Dickinson, ca. 1855 77
Walt Whitman with Butterfly 79
Emily Dickinson, “A narrow Fellow in the Grass” 84–85
Gerard Manley Hopkins, “Balaglas” 102
“Lapis Lazuli” stone, front 110
“Lapis Lazuli” stone, back 111
William Carlos Williams 146
Alfred Stieglitz, Spring Showers 156
Tor House and Hawk Tower 173
Marianne Moore 178
Marianne Moore, Mount Rainier 179
Robinson Jeffers and Edna St. Vincent Millay 190
Edna St. Vincent Millay protesting 191
Machu Picchu, Martín Chambi 198
Machu Picchu, Torreón Complex 200
Wellfleet Whale 207
Deer 227
Emily Dickinson, ca. 1847 241
Emily Dickinson (retouched daguerreotype) 241
May Swenson 247
Denise Levertov, “An English Field in the Nuclear Age” 270
Alaskan Glacier 283
Building the Homestead 285
*The Last of the Curlews*, Fred Bodsworth 305
Galway Kinnell 316
*Islands, Mountains, Houses, Bridge*, Guan Huai 345
Gary Snyder at Sourdough Mountain 347
Gary Snyder at Crater Mountain Lookout 348
*Islands, Mountains, Houses, Bridge*, detail 349
Mount St. Helens, Gary Snyder 354

**COLOR**

*Gallery follows page 210*

1. William Blake, *Creation*
2. John James Audubon, *Osprey*
3. Western Wind, sixteenth-century manuscript
4. Dorothy Wordsworth
5. Simplon Pass
6. John Constable, *A Cloud Study*
7. “Lapis Lazuli” stone, front
8. “Lapis Lazuli” stone, back
9. Cellar bin, Frost farm
11. *Not Man Apart*
14. Stanley Kunitz
15. Deer
16. George Hutchinson, *Great Village, Nova Scotia*
17. Fred Bodsworth, *The Last of the Curlews*
18. Donald Hall, *Ox-Cart Man*
19. Derek Walcott, *Breakers, Becune Point, 1995*
20. *Islands, Mountains, Houses, Bridge*, Guan Huai
21. *Islands, Mountains, Houses, Bridge*, detail
22. Yucky Pollution, Shiny Pretty