



Wood engraving by John Harris & Spalding Johnson
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More than ever, ecology is a vital and growing discipline with the connections between the basic principles of ecology and the causes of environmental problems becoming better understood. The fourth edition of *The Economy of Nature* has been thoroughly revised to improve clarity and update coverage of many new developments in the field. As in previous editions, Robert Ricklefs balances theory with experimental studies and empirical examples of ecological patterns in a style that has made his text a favorite among students and instructors.

- Treatment of the biome concept of ecology—*new to this edition*
- *New* coverage of phenotypic plasticity, patch dynamics, and landscape ecology among other topics
- *New* two-color art program enhances the graphical presentation of data and concepts
- Expanded comparison of terrestrial and aquatic biomes

- Lively narrative accounts of the natural history of organisms
- Math-friendly presentation of models of ecological processes
- Study aids include chapter-opening outlines, numbered summaries, boldfaced key terms, and a new secondary heading structure

"Progress toward an ecological balance depends on the rational application of knowledge and understanding. We are the technological species; now we must become the ecological species and assume a responsible position in the economy of nature."

—Robert Ricklefs

Robert E. Ricklefs is Curators' Professor of Biology at the University of Missouri in St. Louis. Among his publications are *Ecology and Aging: A Natural History*, both published by W. H. Freeman and Company.



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