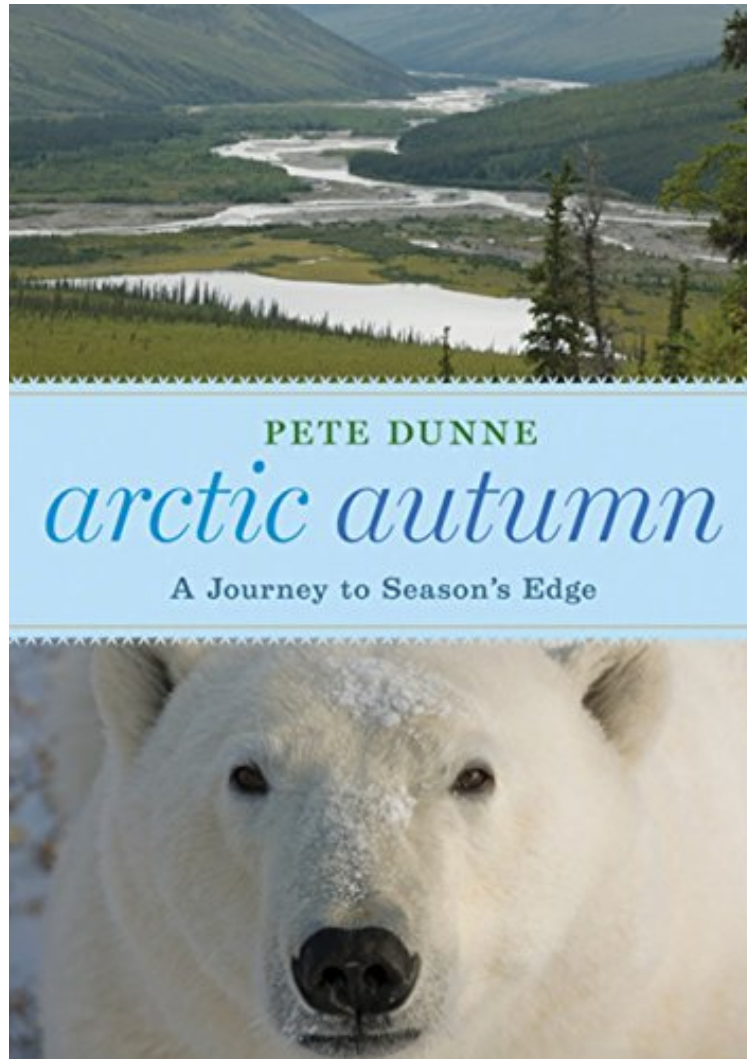


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Arctic Autumn: A Journey to Season's Edge

Pete Dunne

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Pete Dunne : Arctic Autumn: A Journey to Season's Edge before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Arctic Autumn: A Journey to Season's Edge:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Arctic Autumn by Pete Dunne By Marcia Hall http://www..com/gp/product/0618822216/ref=cm_cr_rev_prod_title I could barely put this book down. It's GREAT for anyone who has ever gone to Alaska or northern Canada - OR dreams of it. It has fabulous descriptions and imagery. He made me think in ways I never have about hunting, eating, the environment, travel, wildlife..... And I've thought about all these subjects a tremendous amount! The author even inspired me to sign up for the NJ Audubon 2012 Festival in Cape May at the end of this month. I hope to meet him there. (He is director of the Cape May Bird

Observatory and vice president of the NJ Audubon Society and appearing to sign books.) My ONLY complaint was that there weren't enough photographs - especially as his wife as a photographer as noted frequently in the book! Arctic Autumn: A Journey to Season's Edge [ARCTIC AUTUMN: A JOURNEY TO SEASON'S EDGE BY Dunne, Pete (Author) Sep-20-2011 10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy pen name a good read 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Snippets from the North countryBy CustomerThis book is a collection of travelogues from trips to the Arctic from June to November. Pete Dunne is the director of the Cape May Bird Sanctuary in New Jersey, and author of several books on natural observations. In this book, he describes a series of trips that he took, mainly with his wife, to the far northern reaches of North America. He begins the book on the summer solstice in June, noting that that's when the days begin to get shorter, so it is the logical start of autumn. The book is arranged by month, with separate chapters for trips taken throughout this period, 8 in all. The book includes a selection of photographs taken during these trips. This book is more a travelogue than a description of the natural environment of the North. Although Dunne does manage to include informative descriptions of creatures like the caribou and reindeer, he also describes many of the challenges of traveling and touring in the North. He provides a soulful essay on passing through the stages of life, and pauses to pontificate on global warming and how it is changing the environment, especially in the North. Since all of these trips are rather short in duration, a week or two here and there, or getting from here to there, Dunne never has the time to put down roots, to really breathe the Northern air and let it speak its mysteries to him. Thus, so many of his descriptions, informative though they may be, are quite superficial and could be drawn from secondary sources rather than direct observation. And it's hard to take a sermon on global warming seriously from someone who travels such long distances, consuming such great amounts of fuel, so frequently, just for the sake of travel or adventure.

The Arctic doesn't spring to mind when most people think about autumn. Yet in his continuing effort to invite readers' curiosity through unpredictability, Pete Dunne chose to pair the transitional season of autumn with this fragile environment in flux. The book begins on Bylot Island in Nunavut, Canada, at the retreating edge of the seasonal ice sheet, then moves to Alaska, where the needs of molting geese go head to head with society's need for oil. Then on to the Barren Lands of Canada, and a search for the celebrated caribou herds that mean life and death for human and animal predators alike. A canoe trip down the John River is filled with memories, laughter, and contemplation; a caribou hunt with a professional trapper leads to a polemic on hunting; and Pete travels to an island in the Bering Sea, off the coast of Alaska, to look for rare birds and ponder the passionate nature of competitive bird listers. No trip to the Arctic would be complete without a trip to see polar bears, so Pete and his wife visit Churchill, Manitoba, the polar bear capital of the world. These majestic, but threatened, creatures lead Pete to think about his own life, our interactions with the natural world, and the importance of the Arctic, North America's last great wilderness.

About the Author PETE DUNNE forged a bond with nature as a child and has been studying hawks for more than forty years. He has written fifteen books and countless magazine and newspaper columns. He was the founding director of the Cape May Bird Observatory and now serves as New Jersey Audubon's Birding Ambassador. He lives in Mauricetown, New Jersey.