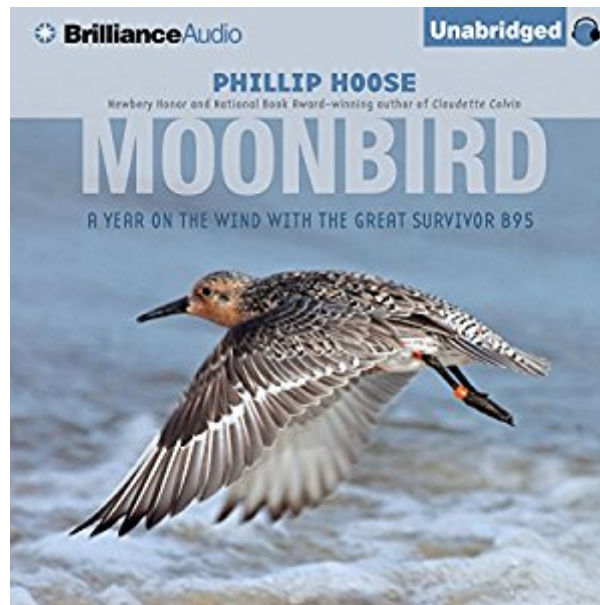


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Moonbird: A Year On The Wind With The Great Survivor B95



Synopsis

Meet rufa red knot B95. Scientists call him the Moonbird because, in the course of his astoundingly long lifetime, this robin-sized shorebird has flown the distance to the moon - and halfway back! Each February he joins a flock that lifts off from Tierra del Fuego, headed for breeding grounds in the Canadian Arctic, 9,000 miles away. Late in the summer, he begins the return journey. B95 can fly for days, but eventually he must descend to refuel and rest. However, recent changes at stopover sites along his migratory circuit - changes caused mostly by human activity - have reduced the food available and made it harder for the birds to reach. During B95's lifetime, the worldwide rufa population has collapsed by nearly 80 percent. Still, the Moonbird wings on; he is now nearly 20 years old. Shaking their heads, scientists ask themselves: How can this one bird make it year after year when so many others fall? National Book Award-winning author Phillip Hoose shows the obstacles rufa red knots face, introduces a worldwide team of scientists and conservationists trying to save them, and offers insights about what we can do to help shorebirds before it's too late. With inspiring prose, thorough research, and stirring images, Hoose explores the tragedy of extinction through the triumph of a single bird.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 3 hours and 9 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Brilliance Audio

Audible.com Release Date: January 16, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00B1TQITQ

Best Sellers Rank: #61 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Science & Nature
#1183 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Animals

Customer Reviews

Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95 by Phillip Hoose is not just your ordinary nonfiction book. It's not even your average book about birds or endangered animals. Rather it's on multiple lists of the best books of 2012, which is where I first encountered it. Moonbird is also the recipient of The Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal Honor, which is why I first decided to read it. It has even won several awards for best science book. Hoose focuses on an

individual bird: B95, a red knot who is also known as Moonbird. Moonbird first gained the attention of scientists in 1995. At the time, the bird was just one of over 850 red knots to be banded in Tierra del Fuego in South America as part of research into migratory routes. Records show that Moonbird had adult plumage, which means he was at least three years old. Six years later, in 2001, one of the birds from that banding was snared again, just miles from where he had been originally caught. The inscription on his band read B95, so labeled to represent the series (out of A and B) and the number from the first banding expedition. When he turned up again at Tierra del Fuego in 2003, the entire rufa subspecies of red knots were plunging towards extinction, which made Moonbird more than an extraordinary pilot who could find his way back to migratory routes year after year. It also made him a survivor. The choice on Hoose's part to focus on an individual bird was deliberate. Hoose had previously written a book about the ivory-billed woodpecker. A fellow conservationist knew Hoose was looking for another bird species to write about; in particular, Hoose wanted one that was in danger of becoming extinct but for which there was still hope.

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