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Field Notes from the Andrews Experimental Forest

stood up to explore and, according to one hypothesis, prepare for flirtation.
We know, however, that all contain recalcitrant materials that will leach out over time in a whispering throughput of leaves and needles—needling sharp and thoughtfully, leaves loose or handsomely bound, released when they are ready, and blown away.

— Blue River Gathering, Oregon, Sept. 2006

Stately, evenly spaced, thick-boled and solitary, the old-growth nature writers stand
mostly in sunlight, swaying a little, quietly absorbing. We believe they are supported mainly by consciousness of tenure and by their many books.

Around them gather the early-successionals, second and third generation, difficult to identify. They are flexible, noticeably less rough, and quick to synthesize. They appear calm. But they may become avid and opportunistic if an old one shifts.

There is some competition for sunlight. But nature writers, young or old, are more strongly characterized by info-tropism. Twenty or thirty at a time will orient, like sunflowers, towards even a single ecologist if it is willing to speak.

Left to themselves they wander and become preoccupied. After information, the ancient writers were found to be prone to writing or napping, while the replacement generations