

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> xii
<i>Preface</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiv

Introduction: the challenge	1
Anthropocentrism	3
The literary and cultural criticism	3
A crisis of the ‘natural’	5
The natures of nature	6
A reading	8
First quandary: climate change	10

Romantic and anti-romantic

Chapter 1 Old world romanticism	15
Romantic ecology	15
The self-evidence of the natural?	18
The inherent greenness of the literary?	19
A reading: the case of John Clare	21
Deep ecology	23
Chapter 2 New world romanticism	25
A reading: retrieving <i>Walden</i>	30
Wild	33

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
	Chapter 3 Genre and the question of non-fiction	35
	‘You don’t make it up’	36
	Fiction or non-fiction?	38
	An aesthetic consumerism	39
	A reading: genres and the projection of animal subjectivity	42
	Second quandary: fiction or non-fiction?	44
	Chapter 4 Language beyond the human?	46
	A realist poetics	47
	<i>The Spell of the Sensuous</i>	48
	Third quandary: how human-centred is given language?	52
	Chapter 5 The inherent violence of western thought?	55
	The archetypal eco-fascist?	59
	The forest	60
	Chapter 6 Post-humanism and the ‘end of nature’?	63
	A reading: <i>Frankenstein</i>	66
	Ecology without nature?	69
	The boundaries of the political	
	Fourth quandary: the crisis of legitimation	74
	Chapter 7 Thinking like a mountain?	77
	The aesthetic	80
	Fifth quandary: what isn’t an environmental issue?	85

	Contents	ix
Chapter 8 Environmental justice and the move ‘beyond nature writing’	87	
Social ecology	89	
A reading: <i>A River Runs Through It</i>	90	
Environmental criticism as cultural history?	93	
Sixth quandary: the antinomy of environmental criticism	94	
Chapter 9 Two readings: European ecojustice	96	
Chapter 10 Liberalism and green moralism	102	
The limits of liberal criticism	105	
A reading: William and Dorothy Wordsworth	108	
Seventh quandary: the rights of the yet-to-be-born	110	
Chapter 11 Ecofeminism	111	
An <i>écriture ecofemine</i> ?	114	
‘Nature provides us with few givens’	117	
Chapter 12 ‘Post-colonial’ ecojustice	120	
Environmentalism as neocolonialism?	120	
Is there yet a specifically environmental post-colonial criticism?	122	
Colonialism as the ‘Conquest of nature’	123	
A reading: Amitav Ghosh, <i>The Hungry Tide</i>	126	
Eighth quandary: overpopulation	127	
Chapter 13 Questions of scale: the local, the national and the global	130	
Methodological nationalism	131	
Literary ‘reinhabitation’?	132	
Questions of scale	136	
Ecopoetry	139	

Science and the struggle for
intellectual authority

Chapter 14 Science and the crisis of authority	143
The disenchantment thesis	143
Facts versus values? a reading, Annie Dillard’s ‘Galápagos’	145
The ‘naturalistic fallacy’	145
Against the facts–values split	148
Ecology, ‘ecology’ and literature	151
Hubert Zapf, <i>Literature as Cultural Ecology</i>	153
Chapter 15 Science studies	156
Studying science as a kind of behaviour	156
<i>The Selfish Gene</i>	157
Donna Haraway	158
Ninth quandary: constructivism and doing justice to non-human agency	163
Chapter 16 Evolutionary theories of literature	165
The Standard Social Science Model	165
Literature and human nature	167
Chapter 17 Interdisciplinarity and science: two essays on human evolution	171
Tenth quandary: the challenge of scientific illiteracy	176

The animal mirror

Eleventh quandary: animal suffering versus ecological managerialism	180
---	-----

Chapter 18 Ethics and the non-human animal	183
‘Kiss goodbye to the idea that humans are qualitatively different from other animals’	185
Human–animal	186
Twelfth quandary: reading the animal as ‘construct’	190
 Chapter 19 Anthropomorphism	 192
An art of animal interpretation	195
A reading: <i>The Wind in the Pylons</i>	198
 Chapter 20 The future of ecocriticism?	 202
Final brief quandary: what place environmental criticism in the modern ‘University of Excellence’?	203
 <i>Notes</i>	 204
<i>Further reading</i>	231
<i>Index</i>	244