

# 10

things you might not know about



## 1.

Rachel Louise Carson was born May 27, 1907, in rural Pennsylvania. Carson's mother inspired her love of nature, which she wrote about in the 1956 article, "Help Your Child to Wonder," in *Woman's Home Companion*.

## 2.

Carson published her first story, "A Battle in the Clouds," when she was only 10. Two years later, three more of her stories appeared in *St. Nicholas* magazine, earning her "Honor Member" status—and \$10.

## 3.

Planning to enter as an English major, Carson attended Pennsylvania College for Women, where she switched to Biology and graduated magna cum laude in 1928.

## 4.

Carson applied for a job at the Bureau of Fisheries, which required an exam that women were discouraged from taking. Carson outscored all and became the second woman ever hired for a permanent post.

## 5.

Carson's first book, *Under the Sea Wind*, went unnoticed; her second book, however, *The Sea Around Us*, remained a best-seller for 86 weeks and was translated into 30 languages. Her third book, *The Edge of the Sea*, confirmed her stature as a writer.

## 6.

Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* was first published in *The New Yorker* in 1962.

## 7.

Credited as the founder of the American environmental movement, Carson's *Silent Spring* brought pesticide use to public attention, led to the banning of DDT, and supported the creation of environmental organizations and legislation.

## 8.

In the 2012 May-June issue of *Audubon* magazine, historian Douglas Brinkley writes about another champion who defended Carson's book, John F. Kennedy, whose love for the sea and sailing was their bond.

## 9.

In 1980, 16 years after her death, President Carter posthumously awarded Carson the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States. In 1999, *TIME* magazine named Carson one of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century.

## 10.

Fifty years after its publication, *Silent Spring* has become a manifesto for generations of conservationists, and a catalyst for the entire environmental movement.

For more on Rachel Carson see the May/June issue of *Audubon Magazine*.

Image by renowned illustrator, Joe Ciardiello.