

Birds Art Life

by Kyo Maclear

ISBN: 9780385687515

Binding: Hardback

Publisher: Doubleday Canada

Pub. Date: 2017-01-17

Pages: 272

Price: \$29.95

A writer's search for inspiration, beauty and solace leads her to birds in this intimate and exuberant meditation on creativity and life--a field guide to things small and significant.

For Vladimir Nabokov, it was butterflies. For John Cage, it was mushrooms. For Sylvia Plath, it was bees. Each of these artists took time away from their work to become observers of natural phenomena. In 2012, Kyo Maclear met a local Toronto musician with an equally captivating side passion--he had recently lost his heart to birds. Curious about what prompted this young urban artist to suddenly embrace nature, Kyo decides to follow him for a year and find out.

¶¶¶¶ A distilled, crystal-like companion to *H is for Hawk*, this memoir celebrates the particular madness of loving and chasing after birds in a big city. Intimate and philosophical, moving with ease between the granular and the grand view, it celebrates the creative and liberating effects of keeping your eyes and ears wide open, and explores what happens when you apply the core lessons of birding to other aspects of life. In one sense, this is a book about disconnection--how our passions can buckle under the demands and emotions of daily life--and about reconnection: how the act of seeking passion and beauty in small ways can lead us to discover our most satisfying life. On a deeper level, it takes up the questions of how we are shaped and nurtured by our parallel passions, and how we might come to cherish not only the world's pristine natural places but also the blemished urban spaces where most of us live.

¶¶¶¶ *Birds Art Life* follows two artists on a yearlon ...



Botanicum

Welcome to the Museum

by Katherine Willis

ISBN: 9780763689230

Binding: Hardback

Series: Welcome to the Museum

Publisher: Candlewick

Pub. Date: 2017-03-14

Pages: 112

Price: \$47.00

Discover more than 160 exhibits in this virtual museum, open all hours.

The 2017 offering from Big Picture Press's *Welcome to the Museum* series, *Botanicum*, is a brilliantly curated guide to plant life. With artwork from Katie Scott of *Animalium* fame, *Botanicum* gives readers the experience of a fascinating exhibition from the pages of a beautiful book. From perennials to bulbs to tropical exotica, *Botanicum* is a wonderful feast of botanical knowledge complete with superb cross sections of how plants work.



Explorers' Botanical Notebook

In the Footsteps of Theophrastus, Marco Polo, Linnaeus, Flinders, Darwin, Speke and Hooker

by Florence Thinard

ISBN: 9781770857636
Binding: Hardback
Publisher: Firefly Books
Pub. Date: 2016-10-25
Pages: 176
Price: \$39.95

"The greatest pleasure of naturalists (understated by certain utilitarians) is to discover new species, to point to new islands on the map of nature, and to populate continents that seem to be deserts" -- Richard Spruce, 1851

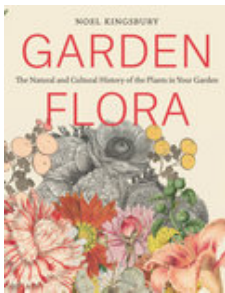
This splendid book traces the journeys of more than 80 pioneering botanists who explored the unknown world and collected thousands of unusual plants. Many were celebrated at home in Europe and England. Others were working in obscurity to fulfill their own desires and obsessions.

But every one of these explorers made important finds, collecting and preserving unique and valuable plants and often establishing them in cultivation back in their home lands.

Each spread in the book describes the journey and the naturalist, with a map tracing the routes taken, on the left. Facing is the actual plant collected, complete with notes, seeds, pollen, and identifying documents, often in the botanist's own hand.

The stories are packed with detail, describing the theories of the day, the difficulty of raising money, and traversing jungles and forests. But each is colored by the excitement of discovering orchids, trees, teas, flowering roses and acanthus, ferns, strange bulbs, and mountain flowers.

The design is accompanied by 80 maps, 150 photographs, drawings and engravings. All work to reproduce the spirit of the quest and the discovery of plants.



Garden Flora

The Natural and Cultural History of the Plants In Your Garden

by Noel Kingsbury

ISBN: 9781604695656
Binding: Hardback
Publisher: Timber Press
Pub. Date: 2016-10-05
Pages: 368
Price: \$55.00

"A beautifully illustrated reference book covers the origins, ecology and history of popular garden plants." --Shelf Awareness The oldest rose fossil was found in Colorado and dates to 35 million years ago. Marigolds, infamous for their ability to self-seed, are named for an Etruscan god who sprang from a ploughed field. And daffodils--an icon of spring--were introduced to Britain by the Romans more than 2,000 years ago. Every garden plant has an origination story, and Garden Flora, by noted garden designer Noel Kingsbury, shares them in a beautifully compelling way. This lushly illustrated survey of 133 of the most commonly grown plants explains where each plant came from and the journey it took into home gardens. Kingsbury tells intriguing tales of the most important plant hunters, breeders, and gardeners throughout history, and explores the unexpected ways plants have been used. Richly illustrated with an eclectic mix of new and historical photos, botanical art, and vintage seed packets and catalogs, Garden Flora is a must-have reference for every gardener and plant lover.



Happiness is a Rare Bird

Living the Birding Life

by Gene Walz

ISBN: 9780888015839

Binding: Paperback

Publisher: Turnstone Press

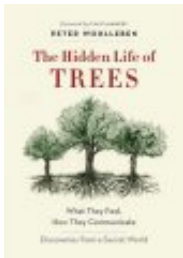
Pub. Date: 2016-12-09

Pages: 208

Price: \$21.00

There is nothing better than the sight of a rare bird. Whether sitting in your backyard when an errant traveller stops by, or trekking to an exotic location, every encounter is a gift.

Through a lifetime of experiences, Gene Walz shares the joy of the birding life in *Happiness is a Rare Bird*. With quirky terms such as vagabonds, endemics, fall-out, jinx birds, and lifers, the unique birding community brings together kindred spirits to marvel at the incredible diversity of their avian subjects. From common house sparrows to the spectacular Cock of the Rock (front cover), every bird is a beauty. Through his numerous memorable birding experiences, Walz paints a picture of a life that is as colourful as the birds he has seen. In nearly every continent around the world he's found happiness and it truly is a rare bird.



The Hidden Life of Trees

What They Feel, How They Communicate-Discoveries from A Secret World

by Peter Wohlleben

ISBN: 9781771642484

Binding: Hardback

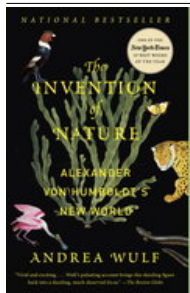
Publisher: Greystone Books Ltd.

Pub. Date: 2016-09-13

Pages: 288

Price: \$29.95

“A paradigm-smashing chronicle of joyous entanglement that will make you acknowledge your own entanglement in the ancient and ever-new web of being.” —Charles Foster, author of *Being a Beast* Are trees social beings? In this international bestseller, forester and author Peter Wohlleben convincingly makes the case that, yes, the forest is a social network. He draws on groundbreaking scientific discoveries to describe how trees are like human families: tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, support them as they grow, share nutrients with those who are sick or struggling, and even warn each other of impending dangers. Wohlleben also shares his deep love of woods and forests, explaining the amazing processes of life, death, and regeneration he has observed in his woodland. After learning about the complex life of trees, a walk in the woods will never be the same again.



The Invention of Nature

Alexander von Humboldt's New World

by Andrea Wulf

ISBN: 9780345806291
Binding: Paperback
Publisher: Vintage
Pub. Date: 2016-10-04
Pages: 576
Price: \$23.00

The acclaimed author of *Founding Gardeners* reveals the forgotten life of Alexander von Humboldt, the visionary German naturalist whose ideas changed the way we see the natural world--and in the process created modern environmentalism.

NATIONAL BEST SELLER

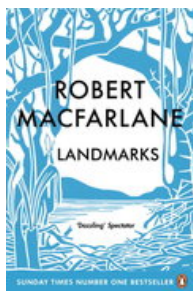
One of the *New York Times* 10 Best Books of the Year

Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, the James Wright Award for Nature Writing, the Costa Biography Award, the Royal Geographic Society's Ness Award, the Sigurd F. Olson Nature Writing Award

Finalist for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction, the Royal Society Science Book Prize, the Kirkus Prize for Nonfiction, the Independent Bookshop Week Book Award

Best Book of the Year: *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The Economist*, *Nature*, *Jezebel*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Publishers Weekly*, *New Scientist*, *The Independent*, *The Telegraph*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Evening Standard*, *The Spectator*

Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) was the most famous scientist of his age, a visionary German naturalist and polymath whose discoveries forever changed the way we understand the natural world. Among his most rev ...



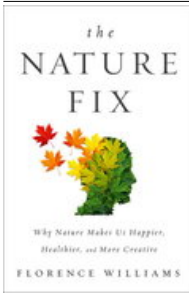
Landmarks

by Robert Macfarlane

ISBN: 9780241967874
Binding: Paperback
Publisher: Penguin Books
Pub. Date: 2016-08-02
Pages: 448
Price: \$24.00

From Robert Macfarlane, the acclaimed author of *The Old Ways*--a celebration of the language of landscape and the power of words to shape our sense of place

For years now, the British writer Robert Macfarlane has been collecting place-words: terms for aspects of landscape, nature, and weather, drawn from dozens of languages and dialects of the British Isles. In this, his fifth book, Macfarlane brilliantly explores the linguistic and literary terrain of the British archipelago, from the Shetlands to Cornwall and from Cumbria to Suffolk, offering themed glossaries of hundreds of these rare, deeply local, poetical terms, organized by such geographical terrains as flatlands, uplands, waterlands, coastlands, woodlands, and underlands. Interspersed with this archive of place words are biographical essays in which Macfarlane writes of his favorite authors who have paid close attention to the natural world and who embody in their own work the huge richness of place language--from Barry Lopez and John Muir to Nan Shepard, J. A. Baker, and Roger Deakin. *Landmarks* is a book about the power of language and how it can become a way to know and love landscape, from a writer acclaimed for his own precision of utterance and distinctive, lyrical voice.



The Nature Fix

Why Nature Makes us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative

by Florence Williams

ISBN: 9780393242713

Binding: Hardback

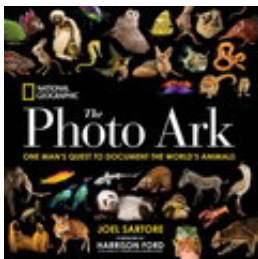
Publisher: WW Norton

Pub. Date: 2017-02-07

Pages: 288

Price: \$35.95

For centuries, poets and philosophers extolled the benefits of a walk in the woods: Beethoven drew inspiration from rocks and trees; Wordsworth composed while tromping over the heath; and Nikola Tesla conceived the electric motor while visiting a park. Intrigued by our storied renewal in the natural world, Florence Williams set out to uncover the science behind nature's positive effects on the brain. In this informative and entertaining account, Williams investigates cutting-edge research as she travels to fragrant cypress forests in Korea to meet the rangers who administer "forest healing programs," to the green hills of Scotland and its "ecotherapeutic" approach to caring for the mentally ill, to a river trip in Idaho with Iraqi vets suffering from PTSD, to the West Virginia mountains where she discovers how being outside helps children with ADHD. The Nature Fix demonstrates that our connection to nature is much more important to our cognition than we think and that even small amounts of exposure to the living world can improve our creativity and enhance our mood. In prose that is incisive, witty, and urgent, Williams shows how time in nature is not a luxury but is in fact essential to our humanity. As our modern lives shift dramatically indoors, these ideas--and the answers they yield--are more urgent than ever.



National Geographic The Photo Ark

One Man's Quest to Document the World's Animals

by NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

ISBN: 9781426217777

Binding: Hardback

Publisher: National Geographic

Pub. Date: 2017-03-07

Pages: 400

Price: \$45.00

This lush book of photography represents National Geographic's Photo Ark, a major cross-platform initiative and lifelong project by photographer Joel Sartore to make portraits of the world's animals--especially those that are endangered. His powerful message, conveyed with humor, compassion, and art: to know these animals is to save them.

Sartore intends to photograph every animal in captivity in the world. He is circling the globe, visiting zoos and wildlife rescue centers to create studio portraits of 12,000 species, with an emphasis on those facing extinction. He has photographed more than 6,000 already and now, thanks to a multi-year partnership with National Geographic, he may reach his goal. This book showcases his animal portraits: from tiny to mammoth, from the Florida grasshopper sparrow to the greater one-horned rhinoceros. Paired with the eloquent prose of veteran wildlife writer Douglas Chadwick, this book presents a thought-provoking argument for saving all the species of our planet.



The 2017 Prairie Garden

Herbs & Spices

by PRAIRIE GARDEN

ISBN: 9780993955921

Binding: Paperback

Series: The Prairie Garden

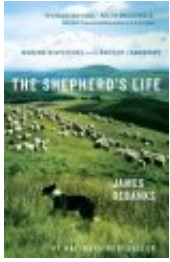
Publisher: The Prairie Garden Committee

Pub. Date: 2017-03-01

Pages: 172

Price: \$17.95

It has been fifteen years since the last herb-themed edition of the Prairie Garden appeared and a whole new generation of gardeners is discovering the diverse joys of growing herbs. These days herb gardens are less often single spaces, but instead intermingle among flowers, vegetables, pots, raised beds and any other gardening concept imaginable. Edible plants are an easy entry point for budding gardeners: everyone can appreciate herbs and they are so well suited to gardens big or small. As one gains experience and grows into a green thumb, herbs continue to offer endless possibilities and rich engagement. The Prairie Garden 2017: Herbs & Spices, with guest editor Dave Hanson, explores the extent to which the opportunities for growing your own herbs, from organics to year-round cultivation, has changed. It also recommends herbs and spices that once seemed unlikely candidates for the local prairie scene.



The Shepherd's Life

Modern Dispatches from an Ancient Landscape

by James Rebanks

ISBN: 9780385682862

Binding: Paperback

Publisher: Doubleday Canada

Pub. Date: 2016-05-10

Pages: 320

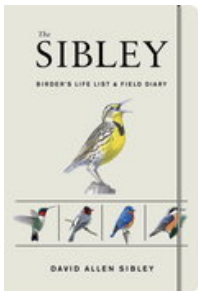
Price: \$22.00

A major new talent redefines the literature of rural life.

Old world met new when a shepherd in the English Lake District impulsively started a Twitter account. A routine cell phone upgrade left author James Rebanks with a pretty decent camera and a pre-loaded Twitter app--the tools to share his way of life with the world. And what began as a tentative experiment became an international phenomenon.

James has worked the land for years, as did his father, and his father before him. His family has lived and farmed in the Lake District of Northern England as long as there have been written records (since 1420) and possibly much longer. And while the land itself has inspired great poets and authors we have rarely heard from the people who tend it. One Twitter account has changed all that, and now James Rebanks has broken free of the 140-character limit and produced "the book I have wanted to write my whole life." The Shepherd's Life is a memoir about growing up amidst a magical, storied landscape, of coming of age in the 1980s and 1990s among hills that seem timeless, and yet suffused with history. Broken into the four seasons, the book chronicles the author's daily experiences at work with his flock and brings alive his family and their ancient way of life, which at times can seem irreconcilable with the modern world.

An astonishing original work, The Shepherd's Life is an intimate look from inside a seemingly ordinary life, one that celebrates the meaning of place, the ties of family to the land around them, ...



The Sibley Birder's Life List and Field Diary

by David Allen Sibley

ISBN: 9780451497451

Binding: Unknown

Publisher: Potter

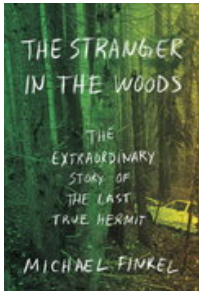
Pub. Date: 2017-03-14

Pages: 304

Price: \$25.95

From leading ornithologist and bestselling author David Sibley comes this essential write-in field companion for all levels of birders.

This indispensable birder's companion includes both ample space for on-site notes and a life list to be filled in by the legions of passionate birders who have bought Sibley's bestselling guides. Included are entries for the 923 species found in the United States and Canada, with space for recording where and when a bird was seen and for notes or memories about the sighting. At the back is a complete checklist of all the birds for building the life list.



The Stranger in the Woods

The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit

by Michael Finkel

ISBN: 9781101875681

Binding: Hardback

Publisher: Alfred A. Knopf

Pub. Date: 2017-03-07

Pages: 224

Price: \$32.95

Many people dream of escaping modern life, but most will never act on it. This is the remarkable true story of a man who lived alone in the woods of Maine for 27 years, making this dream a reality--not out of anger at the world, but simply because he preferred to live on his own;

A New York Times bestseller

In 1986, a shy and intelligent twenty-year-old named Christopher Knight left his home in Massachusetts, drove to Maine, and disappeared into the forest. He would not have a conversation with another human being until nearly three decades later, when he was arrested for stealing food. Living in a tent even through brutal winters, he had survived by his wits and courage, developing ingenious ways to store edibles and water, and to avoid freezing to death. He broke into nearby cottages for food, clothing, reading material, and other provisions, taking only what he needed but terrifying a community never able to solve the mysterious burglaries. Based on extensive interviews with Knight himself, this is a vividly detailed account of his secluded life--why did he leave? what did he learn?--as well as the challenges he has faced since returning to the world. It is a gripping story of survival that asks fundamental questions about solitude, community, and what makes a good life, and a deeply moving portrait of a man who was determined to live his own way, and succeeded.



Trees

by LEMNISCATES

ISBN: 9780763690014

Binding: Hardback

Publisher: Candlewick

Pub. Date: 2017-03-14

Pages: 40

Price: \$21.00

A lyrical narrative and lovely, graphic illustrations pay tribute to the beauty and importance of the trees all around us.

Trees change through the seasons -- springing to life, bearing fruit, and losing their leaves before a period of sleep. They clean the air we breathe, provide seeds and homes for creatures, and extend their shade to everyone equally. Throughout all these changes, trees are constant, patiently learning to grow and flourish wherever they might be. Trees is a reverent and poetic homage that invites the reader to take a closer look at these magnificent beings.