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SHOPPING
DAYS LEFTWHAT TO BUY
OUTDOORS FANS2015
HOLIDAY
GIFT GUIDE

During time spent in the outdoors, we wonder what bird is singing that song, hiding in that nest high in the trees, or bouncing from branch to branch. We negotiate sheer rock

walls and explore exciting new realms. We observe wildlife in its natural environment, and do everything we can to protect that precious resource.

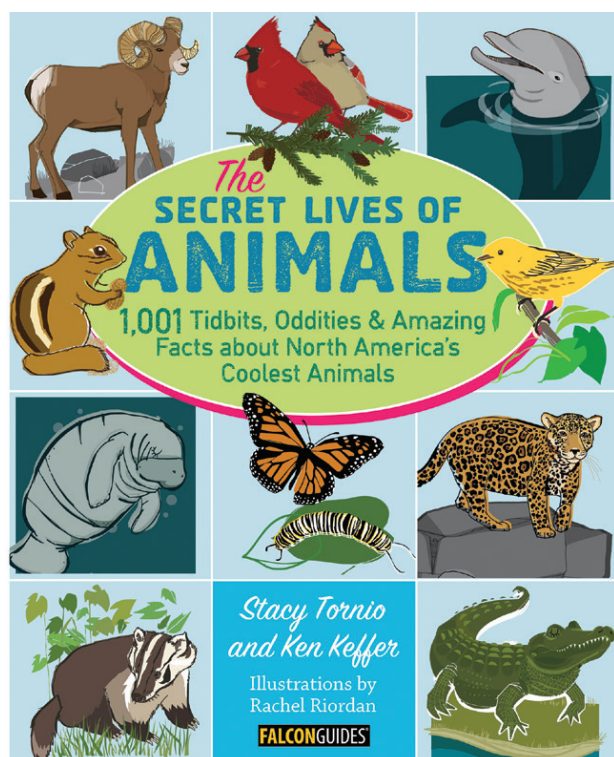
—MATT MARKEY, BLADE OUTDOORS EDITOR

**Bird stuff**

You can welcome a wide assortment of feathered fliers into your backyard with bird houses, bird feeders, and the right kind of feeds. Feeders are designed to hold suet, sunflower, thistle, or safflower seed mixes, along with peanuts or nectars. Bird houses, feeders, and feed, prices vary, **The Andersons**.

**Bike rack**

That rig that helps you wheel around town, tour the parks, or traverse the country roads needs to find a safe place to reside when not in use. The world's smallest bicycle rack is a gravity-defying engineering marvel. Ideal for hanging a bike in apartments, condos, city lofts, offices, garages, dorms, cottages, or anywhere there is a wall. **CLUG bike rack**, \$25, getclug.com.

**'The Secret Lives of Animals'**

The 254 pages in this book are illustrated and written for kids, and crammed with amazing facts, tidbits, and oddities about North American animals. It is a fun blend of knowledge and entertainment on the fish, birds, and mammals that share the continent with us. **Amazon.com**, paperback \$19.95, Kindle version \$10.99.

Nature's Precious Treasures

Adopt
-A-
Manatee®
for the
Holidays



Call 1-800-432-5646 (JOIN)
savethemanatee.org

Photo © David Schlichte

Manatee Adoption

The work to protect endangered manatees and their aquatic habitat is supported through donations, and gifts can be made in the name of a friend or loved one. Funds from the adoption program go toward emergency rescue response for sick and injured manatees, and for waterway signage, public awareness, and education, plus research. **Adopt-A-Manatee**, \$25, savethemanatee.org.

The **Cornell Lab** of Ornithology

Conservation science

Your gift to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in the name of a friend or loved one will be matched by a generous anonymous donor who shares your enthusiasm for the innovative programs this lab supports — programs that benefit birds, other wildlife, and all of nature. **Cornell Lab of Ornithology**, birds.cornell.edu.

**Heavy Duty
Outdoors Garb**

Whether weaving your way through the brush and briars to catch a glimpse of a rare migratory bird, or facing off with the chilly wind along the lakeshore while capturing photos of ducks and water birds, a rugged but versatile outer layer is a must. This fleece-lined jacket is both tough and soft, and comfortable down to 20 degrees. **Fire Hose Hanger Bender Jacket**, DuluthTrading.com, \$74.50.

**Rock hounds**

The Geology Store operated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources offers rock hounds, explorers, hikers, and young geologists the maps, reports, and data sets to direct their explorations in the Buckeye State. Geology gifts, prices start at just a few dollars, OhioGeologyStore.com.

**Rock climbing & rappelling**

Face off with a sheer rock wall while you explore the rugged and stunning beauty of Ohio's Hocking Hills region, vertical style. Beginners are welcome since these climbing and rappelling treks include all the necessary gear, and professional guides. Open year-round. Rock climbing & rappelling gift certificates, starting at \$85, available at **HockingHillsAdventureTrek.com**.

**Binoculars**

The beginning birder needs to get an up-close look at the tiny warblers that bounce around the trees along Lake Erie's shoreline each spring. The ideal set of optics for the next generation of birders brings in the light and draws the image close in great detail. Sturdy while also waterproof and lightweight, with a neck strap and carrying case. **Celestron's Nature DX Binoculars**, \$119.99, **Gander Mountain**, 1320 Holland-Sylvania Rd., Holland.

* Prices and availability subject to change.

**Spanish birding book**

This unique guide was put together by renowned author, naturalist, and birding expert Kenn Kaufman, with assistance from conservationists and ornithologists in Mexico, to help to recruit scores of new birders from among the more than 28 million Americans who speak Spanish at home. Books can be purchased and donated to assist with the conservation of the unique birds and habitats of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. **Guía de Campo**, \$12, bsbo.org/donate-the-guida.

2 nights
4 services

Night
of
Peace

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