



What to buy

BIRDERS

From fledgling to fanatic, don't forget the birders in your life. Here's a chance to earn your wings as a gift-giver and help their hobby soar. Birding's popularity is especially strong here in the western Lake Erie region, where thousands of people converge along the shoreline for events such as

Hawk Fest in the fall and the Biggest Week in American Birding in the spring. Audubon's 118th annual Christmas Bird Count, which began Dec. 14, will continue to draw legions of dedicated birders out into the bitter cold through Jan. 5.

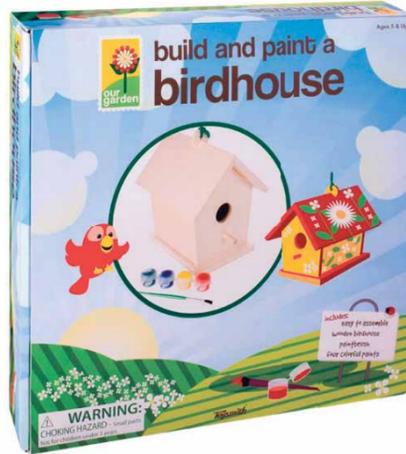
— TOM HENRY, BLADE ENVIRONMENTAL WRITER



LEGACY STAMP



Federal Duck Stamp and Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp: Sales of the Federal Duck Stamp alone have generated more than \$800 million for a national fund used to protect more than 5.7 acres of habitat since 1934. Ninety-eight cents of every duck stamp dollar goes into that fund, called the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. These stamps are required of all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and over. They're available at many sporting goods shops and other retail stores; U.S. Postal Service and national wildlife refuges. \$25. See duckstamp.com, usps.com or fws.gov/refuges. Also, here in the Buckeye State you can purchase the Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp that helps support state-specific conservation efforts. \$15.



Toysmith Bird Feeder Kit: A simple, all-in-one kit of a classic bird feeder designed for children as young as 5 years old to build. \$9.99. Bass Pro Shops, Amazon.com



Bird mug: Sure, there are lots of mug out there. But this Oiselle Camp Cup by Miir is double-wall vacuum insulation, BPA-free, and has a medical grade stainless steel body in addition to being a little more subtle than some. \$25. Amazon.com



Celestron 71332 Nature DX 8x42 binocular: Great optics are, of course, a must for all serious birders. Home Depot, eBay, B & H Photo, Amazon, and other retail outlets and websites. \$139.95.



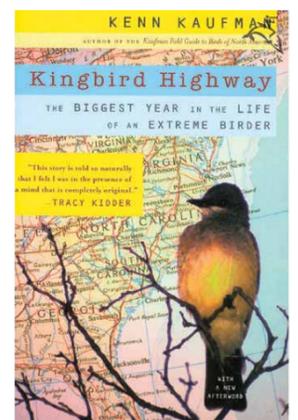
Bird socks: Are you kidding? Who wouldn't want to take a break from argyles now and then with these beauties? \$11.95. Three dozen to choose from at bit.ly/2zWdR4p.



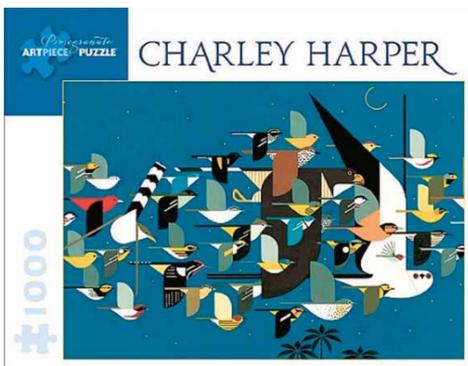
Henry David Thoreau postage stamps: Everybody still uses a few postage stamps here and there, right? "The voice of nature is always encouraging," famed writer-conservationist Henry David Thoreau wrote in a journal entry on March 18, 1858, when reminiscing about what it's like to hear birds return north each spring. The U.S. Postal Service began selling this Thoreau stamp this year. Sheet of 20 for \$9.80.



L.L.Bean Traveler Vest: Good, versatile, highly rated vest for hiking in the field or simply being more organized while traveling through airports. Several secure, easy-access pockets. Can hold anything from passports to GPS devices, binoculars, and more, or fold up compactly when not in use. \$119. Eddie Bauer, Franklin Park Mall, 5001 Monroe St.



Kingbird Highway: Speaking of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, consider this 1997 classic by one of the group's most distinguished members, Kenn Kaufman, an internationally known birder, author, artist, conservationist, and recipient of the highest awards from Audubon and the American Birding Association. *Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder* is a coming-of-age story of how he dropped out of high school at age 16 in the 1970s and hitchhiked from Alaska to Mexico in pursuit of his passion. Booklist calls it "a fascinating memoir of an obsession." \$31.95 and less. Barnes and Noble, 4940 Momroe St.



Charley Harper Bird Puzzle: This is a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle called Mystery of the Missing Migrants, a 1990 classic by the late Charley Harper, an artist and bird lover who died in 2007. It depicts neo-tropical birds at risk that migrate between tropical rainforests and North American forests. \$17.96. Amazon.com.



Black Swamp Bird Observatory gear and/or membership: Northwest Ohio's largest and most active birding organization sponsors the Biggest Week in American Birding, scheduled for next May 4-13. It has banded more than 600,000 birds in a little more than 25 years. Several membership levels ranging from \$15 to \$500. bsbo.org.

* Prices and availability subject to change.

Great Nature Gift Ideas...

- Over 100 Bird Feeders Including
- Our WBU Ecoclean®
- Garden Accessories
- Binoculars
- Bird Baths & Heaters
- Bird Houses
- Advanced Pole System
- Nature Decorated Gift Items
- Nature Jewelry
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