

Flora

- *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*, Doug Tallamy (358 pages)
- *The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees*, Doug Tallamy (197 pages)
- *In Praise of Poison Ivy: The Secret Virtues, Astonishing History, and Dangerous Lore of the World's Most Hated Plant*, Anita Sanchez (208 pages)
- *The Wild Trees: A Story of Passion and Daring*, Richard Preston (294 pages)
- *Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest*, Joan Maloof (176 pages)

Fauna

- *Vanishing Treasures: A Bestiary of Extraordinary Endangered Creatures*, Katherine Rundell (208 pages)
- *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, Elizabeth Kolbert (319 pages)
- *Playing Possum: How Animals Understand Death*, Susana Monsó (264 pages)
- *Life at the Zoo: Behind the Scenes with the Animal Doctors*, Phillip T. Robinson (293 pg)
- *Flight Paths: How a Passionate and Quirky Group of Pioneering Scientists Solved the Mystery of Bird Migration*, Rebecca Heisman (267 pages)
- *The Language of Butterflies: How Thieves, Hoarders, Scientists, and Other Obsessives Unlocked the Secrets of the World's Favorite Insect*, Wendy Williams (224 pages)
- *Wasps: The Astonishing Diversity of a Misunderstood Insect*, Eric R. Eaton (256 pages)
- *The Last Butterflies: A Scientist's Quest to Save a Rare and Vanishing Creature*, Nick Haddad (280 pages)

Urban Ecology

- *A Natural History of Empty Lots: Field Notes From Urban Edgelands, Back Alleys, and Other Wild Places*, Christopher Brown (318 pages)
- *Chessie: A Cultural History of the Chesapeake Bay Sea Monster*, Eric A. Cheezum (288 pg)
- *Crossings: How Road Ecology Is Shaping the Future of Our Planet*, Ben Goldfarb (370 pg)
- *Never Home Alone: From Microbes to Millipedes, Camel Crickets, and Honeybees, the Natural History of Where We Live*, Rob Dunn (323 pages)
- *Concrete Botany: The Ecology of Plants in the Age of Human Disturbance*, Joey Santore (224 pg)

Environment & Climate

- *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*, Ayana Elizabeth Johnson (Editor), Katharine K. Wilkinson (Editor) (418 pages)
- *The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Path of Climate Disruption*, Dahr Jamail (257 pages)
- *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson (378 pages)
- *The Secret World of Twilight: A Natural History of Dusk and Dawn*, Sally Coulthard (288 pg)

Water

- *Is a River Alive?*, Robert Macfarlane (374)
- *Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter*, Ben Goldfarb (286 pages)
- *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes*, Dan Egan (364)
- *Bogland: The Secret World That Defies Death and Protects Life*, Merritt R. Turetsky (240 pages)

Food & Agriculture

- *Ancestral Appetites: Food in Prehistory*, Kristen J. Gremillion (198 pages)
- *Pawpaw: In Search of America's Forgotten Fruit*, Andrew Moore (296 pages)
- *Growing a Revolution: Bringing Our Soil Back to Life*, David R. Montgomery (316 pages)
- *Frostbite: How Refrigeration Changed Our Food, Our Planet, and Ourselves*, Nicola Twilley (387 pages)

Indiana Natural History

- *Prairie: A Natural History of the Heart of North America*, Candice Savage (336 pages)
- *American Serengeti: The Last Big Animals of the Great Plains*, Dan Flores (213 pages)
- *Indiana Rocks!: A Guide to Geologic Sites in the Hoosier State*, Indiana Geological and Water Survey (138 pages)
- *An Incomplete History of St. Joseph County*, Aaron Hellman (180 pages)
- *Beyond Walden: The Hidden History of America's Kettle Lakes and Ponds*, Robert M. Thorson (320 pages)

Nature Writing & Essays

- *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*, Amy Tan (288 pages)
- *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*, Robin Wall Kimmerer (112 pages)
- *Dispersals: On Plants, Borders, and Belonging*, Jessica J. Lee (270 pages)
- *Oaxaca Journal*, Oliver Sacks (176 pages)
- *When Trees Testify: Science, Wisdom, History, and America's Black Botanical Legacy*, Beronda L. Montgomery (275)
- *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*, Elisabeth Tova Bailey (190 pages)

Nature & Well-being

- *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, Richard Louv (390 pages)
- *The Call of the Honeyguide: What Science Tells Us about How to Live Well with the Rest of Life*, Rob Dunn (341 pages)

Fiction

- *The Ministry for the Future*, Kim Stanley Robinson (563 pages)

- *The Antidote*, Karen Russell (419 pages)
- *American War*, Omar El Akkad (333 pages)
- *The Overstory*, Richard Powers (502 pages)
- *North Woods*, Daniel Mason (372 pages)
- *A Girl of the Limberlost*, Gene Stratton-Porter (479 pages)
- *The Bog Wife*, Kay Chronister (319 pages)

DESCRIPTIONS

Flora

- *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*, Doug Tallamy

In *Bringing Nature Home*, Doug Tallamy encourages the use of native plants in gardening. This book asks and answers questions for modern gardeners inclined to good stewardship. How can we adjust our planting palette to be both beautiful and environmentally useful? How much more does a local oak species contribute to habitat richness than an out-of-ecological-context exotic tree? What do violets and fritillary butterflies, or pawpaws and zebra swallowtails have in common? Where might tomorrow's species come from?

- *The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees*, Doug Tallamy

Reveals the ecological importance of the oak tree, discussing its month-by-month role in the planet's seasonal cycles, and shares practical advice about how to plant and care for an oak.

- *In Praise of Poison Ivy: The Secret Virtues, Astonishing History, and Dangerous Lore of the World's Most Hated Plant*, Anita Sanchez

Deadly. Powerful. Beautiful. The much-hated plant called poison ivy is all of these—and more. Poison ivy has long irritated humans, but the astounding paradox is that poison ivy is a plant of immense ecological value. *In Praise of Poison Ivy* explores the vices and virtues of a plant with a dramatic history and a rosy future.

- *The Wild Trees: A Story of Passion and Daring*, Richard Preston

Hidden away in foggy, uncharted rain forest valleys in Northern California are the tallest organisms the world has ever sustained—the coast redwood trees. 96% of the ancient redwood forests have been logged, but the fragments that remain are among the great wonders of nature. The biggest redwoods can rise more than thirty-five stories above the ground, forming cathedral-like structures in the air. Until recently, the canopy at the tops of these majestic trees was undiscovered. Writer Preston unfolds the story of the daring botanists and amateur naturalists that found a lost world above California, dangerous, hauntingly beautiful, and unexplored. The deep redwood canopy is a vertical Eden filled with mosses, lichens, spotted salamanders, hanging gardens of ferns, and thickets of huckleberry bushes, all growing out of massive trunk systems, sometimes hollowed out by fire. Thick layers of soil sitting on limbs harbor animal and plant life unknown to science.

- *Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest*, Joan Maloof

In this collection of natural-history essays, biologist Joan Maloof embarks on a series of lively, fact-filled expeditions into forests of the eastern United States. Through Maloof's engaging, conversational style, each essay offers a lesson in stewardship as it explores the interwoven connections between a tree species and the animals and insects whose lives depend on it—and who, in turn, work to ensure the tree's survival. Never really at home in a laboratory, Maloof took to the woods early in her career. Her enthusiasm for firsthand observation in the wild spills over into her writing, whether the subject is the composition of forest air, the eagle's preference for nesting in loblolly pines, the growth rings of the bald cypress, or the gray squirrel's fondness for weevil-infested acorns. With a storyteller's instinct for intriguing particulars, Maloof expands our notions about what a tree "is" through her many asides—about the six species of leafhoppers who eat only sycamore leaves or the midges who live inside holly berries and somehow prevent them from turning red. As a scientist, Maloof accepts that trees have a spiritual dimension that cannot be quantified. As an unrepentant tree hugger, she finds support in the scientific case for biodiversity. As an activist, she can't help but wonder how much time is left for our forests.

Fauna

- *Vanishing Treasures: A Bestiary of Extraordinary Endangered Creatures*, Katherine Rundell (essays)

In this brilliant and passionately persuasive book, Katherine Rundell takes us on a globe-spanning tour of the world's most awe-inspiring animals currently facing extinction... This urgent, inspiring book of essays dedicated to 23 unusual and underappreciated creatures is a clarion call insisting that we look at the world around us with new eyes—to see the magic of the animals we live among, their unknown histories and capabilities, and above all how lucky we are to tread the same ground as such vanishing treasures.

- *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, Elizabeth Kolbert

Over the last half-billion years, there have been five mass extinctions, when the diversity of life on earth suddenly and dramatically contracted. Scientists around the world are currently monitoring the sixth extinction, predicted to be the most devastating extinction event since the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs. This time around, the cataclysm is us. In prose that is at once frank, entertaining, and deeply informed, The New Yorker writer Elizabeth Kolbert tells us why and how human beings have altered life on the planet in a way no species has before. Interweaving research in half a dozen disciplines, descriptions of the fascinating species that have already been lost, and the history of extinction as a concept, Kolbert provides a moving and comprehensive account of the disappearances occurring before our very eyes. She shows that the sixth extinction is likely to be mankind's most lasting legacy, compelling us to rethink the fundamental question of what it means to be human.

- *Playing Possum: How Animals Understand Death*, Susana Monsó

How animals conceive of death and dying—and what it can teach us about our own relationships with mortality

- *Life at the Zoo: Behind the Scenes with the Animal Doctors*, Phillip T. Robinson

Some 140 million people visit zoos and aquariums annually - more than attend all major U.S. professional sporting events. Life at the Zoo is an eminent zoo veterinarian's personal account of the challenges presented by the evolution of zoos and the expectations of their visitors. Over the past thirty years, more and more has been expected of zoos as animal welfare concerns have escalated along with steady advances in science, medicine, and technology. This book tells how animal exhibits are developed and how illnesses are detected in patients and describes the hazards of working around dangerous creatures.

- *Flight Paths: How a Passionate and Quirky Group of Pioneering Scientists Solved the Mystery of Bird Migration*, Rebecca Heisman

Flight Paths is the never-before-told story of how a group of migration-obsessed scientists in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries engaged nearly every branch of science to understand bird migration—from where and when they take off to their flightpaths and behaviors, their destinations and the challenges they encounter getting there

- *The Language of Butterflies: How Thieves, Hoarders, Scientists, and Other Obsessives Unlocked the Secrets of the World's Favorite Insect*, Wendy Williams

From butterfly gardens to zoo exhibitions, we've encouraged them to infiltrate our lives. Williams reveals the inner lives of these 'flying flowers' and shows that butterflies are far more intelligent and tougher than we give them credit for. She takes readers to butterfly habitats across the globe and introduces us to not only various species, but to the scientists who have dedicated their lives to studying them.

- *Wasps: The Astonishing Diversity of a Misunderstood Insect*, Eric R. Eaton

Wasps are far more diverse than the familiar yellowjackets and hornets that harass picnickers and build nests under the eaves of our homes. These amazing, mostly solitary creatures thrive in nearly every habitat on Earth, and their influence on our lives is overwhelmingly beneficial. Wasps are agents of pest control in agriculture and gardens. They are subjects of study in medicine, engineering, and other important fields. Wasps pollinate flowers, engage in symbiotic relationships with other organisms, and create architectural masterpieces in the form of their nests. This richly illustrated book introduces you to some of the most spectacular members of the wasp realm, colorful in both appearance and lifestyle. From minute fairyflies to gargantuan tarantula hawks, wasps exploit almost every niche on the planet. So successful are they at survival that other organisms emulate their appearance and behavior. The sting is the least reason to respect wasps and, as you will see, no reason to loathe them, either. Written by a leading authority on these remarkable insects, Wasps reveals a world of staggering variety and endless fascination.

- *The Last Butterflies: A Scientist's Quest to Save a Rare and Vanishing Creature*, Nick Haddad

Most of us have heard of such popular butterflies as the Monarch or Painted Lady. But what about Fender's Blue? Or the St. Francis' Satyr? Because of their extreme rarity, these butterflies are not well-known, yet they are remarkable species with important lessons to teach us. *The Last Butterflies* spotlights the rarest of these creatures--some numbering no more than what can be held in one hand. Drawing from his own first-hand experiences, Nick Haddad explores the challenges of tracking these vanishing butterflies, why they are disappearing, and why they are worth saving. He also provides startling insights into the effects of human activity and environmental change on the planet's biodiversity. Weaving a vivid and personal narrative with ideas from ecology and conservation, Haddad illustrates the race against time to reverse the decline of six butterfly species. Many scientists mistakenly assume we fully understand butterflies' natural histories. Yet, as with the Large Blue in England, we too often know too little and the conservation consequences are dire. Haddad argues that a hands-off approach is not effective and that in many instances, like for the Fender's Blue and Bay Checkerspot, active and aggressive management is necessary. With deliberate conservation, rare butterflies can coexist with people, inhabit urban fringes, and, in the case of the St. Francis' Satyr, even reside on bomb ranges and military land. Haddad shows that through the efforts to protect and restore butterflies, we might learn how to successfully confront conservation issues for all animals and plants. A moving account of extinction, recovery, and hope, *The Last Butterflies* demonstrates the great value of these beautiful insects to science, conservation, and people.

Urban Ecology

- *A Natural History of Empty Lots: Field Notes From Urban Edgelands, Back Alleys, and Other Wild Places*, Christopher Brown (memoir)

A genre-bending blend of naturalism, memoir, and social manifesto for rewilding the city, the self, and society. *A Natural History of Empty Lots* is a genre-defying work of nature writing, literary nonfiction, and memoir that explores what happens when nature and the city intersect. During the real estate crash of the late 2000s, Christopher Brown purchased an empty lot in an industrial section of Austin, Texas. The property--abandoned and full of litter and debris--was an unlikely site for a home. Brown had become fascinated with these empty lots around Austin, so-called "ruined" spaces once used for agriculture and industry awaiting their redevelopment. He discovered them to be teeming with natural activity, and embarked on a twenty-year project to live in and document such spaces. There, in our most damaged landscapes, he witnessed the remarkable resilience of wild nature, and how we can heal ourselves by healing the Earth. Beautifully written and philosophically hard-hitting, *A Natural History of Empty Lots* offers a new lens on human disruption and nature, offering a sense of hope among the edgelands.

- *Chessie: A Cultural History of the Chesapeake Bay Sea Monster*, Eric A. Cheezum

The incredible true story of the mysterious sea creature who captured hearts and imaginations during the turbulent 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. In the summer of 1978, residents along the

Virginia side of the Potomac River were startled by sightings of a strange creature lurking in the water. Eventually dubbed Chessie, this elusive sea serpent tantalized reporters and the public alike, always slipping away just out of reach. In this, the first comprehensive history of the Chessie phenomenon, Eric A. Cheezum takes us on a thrilling journey through the life and times of the famous monster, diving beneath the surface to reveal the remarkable events that unfolded over the years as Chessie sightings continued. After initially vanishing, the creature resurfaced in 1980, then again in 1982, when it was finally captured on video off the coast of Kent Island. These sightings thrust Chessie into the national and international spotlight, transforming it into a regional celebrity. Cheezum uncovers the fascinating connection between Chessie's appearances and the dramatic changes occurring in Chesapeake Bay communities. As the bay transitioned from a hub of labor-intensive activities to a recreational destination, Chessie became a symbol with multilayered meaning. Environmentalists seized the opportunity to educate the public on the bay's importance as an ecosystem, while tourists and suburbanites found solace in connecting culturally with the bay. Meanwhile, watermen faced the unsettling prospect of a declining way of life. With expert analysis grounded in historical context, Cheezum sheds light on Chessie's enduring impact and legacy. Chessie is an enthralling exploration of the profound power of a symbol that underscores both the affection the public continues to have for the monster and the cultural transformations in the region at the end of the twentieth century.

- *Crossings: How Road Ecology Is Shaping the Future of Our Planet*, Ben Goldfarb

Some 40 million miles of roadways encircle the earth, but we tend to regard them only as infrastructure for human convenience. In *Crossings*, Ben Goldfarb delves into the new science of road ecology to explore how roads have transformed our world. Millions of animals are killed by cars each day in the US alone, and roads fragment wildlife populations into inbred clusters, disrupt migration for creatures from antelope to salmon, allow invasive plants to spread and even bend the arc of evolution itself. But road ecologists are also seeking innovative solutions: Goldfarb meets with conservationists building bridges for mountain lions and tunnels for toads, engineers deconstructing logging roads, and citizens working to undo the havoc highways have wreaked upon cities. A sweeping, spirited and timely investigation into how humans have altered the natural world, *Crossings* also shows us how to create a better future for all living beings. An eye-opening and witty account of the global ecological transformations wrought by roads, from an award-winning author.

- *Never Home Alone: From Microbes to Millipedes, Camel Crickets, and Honeybees, the Natural History of Where We Live*, Rob Dunn

A natural history of the wilderness in our homes, from the microbes in our showers to the crickets in our basements. Even when the floors are sparkling clean and the house seems silent, our domestic domain is wild beyond imagination. In *Never Home Alone*, biologist Rob Dunn introduces us to the nearly 200,000 species living with us in our own homes, from the Egyptian meal moths in our cupboards and camel crickets in our basements to the lactobacillus lounging on our kitchen counters. You are not alone. Yet, as we obsess over sterilizing our homes and

separating our spaces from nature, we are unwittingly cultivating an entirely new playground for evolution. These changes are reshaping the organisms that live with us – prompting some to become more dangerous, while undermining those species that benefit our bodies or help us keep more threatening organisms at bay. No one who reads this engrossing, revelatory book will look at their homes in the same way again.

- Concrete Botany: The Ecology of Plants in the Age of Human Disturbance, Joey Santore

Concrete botany is about a diversity of topics : the human relationship with plants today, why some plants are invasive, what invasion biology is, how biogeography helps explain it, "weeds" and ruderal plants, how I got into Botany, why accidentally stumbling into a relationship with the living world affected (and vastly improved) nearly every other aspect of my life, why most modern horticulture and landscaping is trash, why the current human relationship with - and perception of - plants is deranged, why lawn-killing and creating native habitat is good for the soul, why Mexico has the coolest native pioneer species, what the hell a pioneer species is in the first place, and a lot more.

Environment & Climate

- *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*, Ayana Elizabeth Johnson (Editor), Katharine K. Wilkinson (Editor)

Two powerful phenomena are simultaneously unfolding on Earth: the rise of the climate movement and the rise of women and girls. The People's Climate March and the Women's March. School strikes for climate and the #MeToo movement. Rebellions against extinction and declarations that time's up. More than concurrent, the two trends are deeply connected. From sinking islands to drought-ridden savannas, the global warming crisis places an outsized burden on women, largely because of gender inequalities. In many parts of the world, women hold traditional roles as the primary caregivers in families and communities, and as the main providers of food and fuel, they are more vulnerable when flooding and drought occur; the U.N. estimates 80% of those who have been displaced by climate change are women. Women are on the front line of the climate-change battle, and are uniquely situated to be agents of change--to find ways to mitigate the causes of global warming and adapt to its impacts on the ground. Today, across the world, from boardrooms and policy positions to local communities, from science to activism, women everywhere are using their voices to take leadership and call for action on climate change. This anthology is a collection and celebration of these diverse voices, asking critical questions and providing invaluable insight and solutions. Curated by two climate leaders, this book leads us away from the brink and toward the possibility of a life-giving future

- *The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Path of Climate Disruption*, Dahr Jamail

After nearly a decade overseas as a war reporter, the acclaimed journalist Dahr Jamail returned to America to renew his passion for mountaineering, only to find that the slopes he had once climbed have been irrevocably changed by climate disruption. In response, Jamail embarks on a journey to the geographical front lines of this crisis—from Alaska to Australia's Great Barrier Reef, via the Amazon rainforest—in order to discover the consequences to nature and to humans of the loss of ice. In *The End of Ice*, we follow Jamail as he scales Denali, the highest peak in North America, dives in the warm crystal waters of the Pacific only to find ghostly coral reefs, and explores the tundra of St. Paul Island where he meets the last subsistence seal hunters of the Bering Sea and witnesses its melting glaciers. Accompanied by climate scientists and people whose families have fished, farmed, and lived in the areas he visits for centuries, Jamail begins to accept the fact that Earth, most likely, is in a hospice situation. Ironically, this allows him to renew his passion for the planet's wild places, cherishing Earth in a way he has never been able to before. Like no other book, *The End of Ice* offers a firsthand chronicle—including photographs throughout of Jamail on his journey across the world—of the catastrophic reality of our situation and the incalculable necessity of relishing this vulnerable, fragile planet while we still can.

- *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson

Silent Spring documents the adverse environmental effects caused by the indiscriminate use of pesticides. Carson accused the chemical industry of spreading disinformation, and public officials of accepting the industry's marketing claims unquestioningly. The book appeared in September 1962 and the outcry that followed its publication forced the banning of DDT and spurred revolutionary changes in the laws affecting our air, land, and water. Carson's book was instrumental in launching the environmental movement.

- *The Secret World of Twilight: A Natural History of Dusk and Dawn*, Sally Coulthard

Every day, just before sunrise and straight after sunset, magic happens. Dawn and dusk – those fleeting, half-lit hours – are when the ordinary becomes extraordinary. Skies flare with colour, landscapes shift in mood and an unseen cast of creatures emerges from the shadows. Welcome to twilight. In *THE SECRET WORLD OF TWILIGHT*, author and smallholder Sally Coulthard invites us into this magical in-between realm, where seductive night-blooming flowers open, secretive mammals stir, giant moths reign and fantastical sea creatures ride the tide. Twilight profoundly affects human life too – but in our age of electric light and closed doors, we've almost forgotten how to see it. Blending natural history, folklore and memoir, Coulthard reveals twilight as a vital, liminal force: one that has inspired awe for millennia and still has the power to illuminate our daily lives.

Water

- *Is a River Alive?*, Robert Macfarlane

Hailed as “a naturalist who can unfurl a sentence with the breathless ease of a master angler” (Holly Morris, New York Times), Robert Macfarlane brings his glittering style to a profound work of travel writing, reporting, and natural history. *Is a River Alive?* is a joyous exploration into an ancient, urgent idea: that rivers are living beings who should be recognized as such in imagination and law. Macfarlane takes readers on three unforgettable journeys teeming with extraordinary people and places: to the miraculous cloud-forests and mountain streams of Ecuador, to the wounded creeks and lagoons of India, and to the spectacular wild rivers of Canada—imperiled by mining, pollution, and dams. Braiding these journeys is the life story of the fragile chalk stream a mile from Macfarlane’s house, which flows through his own years and days. Powered by Macfarlane’s dazzling prose and lit throughout by other voices, *Is a River Alive?* will open hearts, challenge perspectives, and remind us that our fate flows with that of rivers—and always has.

- *Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter*, Ben Goldfarb

In *Eager*, environmental journalist Ben Goldfarb reveals that our modern idea of what a healthy landscape looks like and how it functions is wrong, distorted by the fur trade that once trapped out millions of beavers from North America's lakes and rivers. The consequences of losing beavers were profound: streams eroded, wetlands dried up, and species from salmon to swans lost vital habitat. Today, a growing coalition of “Beaver Believers”—including scientists, ranchers, and passionate citizens—recognizes that ecosystems with beavers are far healthier, for humans and non-humans alike, than those without them. From the Nevada deserts to the Scottish highlands, Believers are now hard at work restoring these industrious rodents to their former haunts. *Eager* is a powerful story about one of the world's most influential species, how North America was colonized, how our landscapes have changed over the centuries, and how beavers can help us fight drought, flooding, wildfire, extinction, and the ravages of climate change. Ultimately, it's about how we can learn to coexist, harmoniously and even beneficially, with our fellow travelers on this planet.

- *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes*, Dan Egan

The Great Lakes—Erie, Huron, Michigan, Ontario, and Superior—hold 20 percent of the world's supply of surface fresh water and provide sustenance, work, and recreation for tens of millions of Americans. But they are under threat as never before, and their problems are spreading across the continent. *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* is prize-winning reporter Dan Egan's compulsively readable portrait of an ecological catastrophe happening right before our eyes, blending the epic story of the lakes with an examination of the perils they face and the ways we can restore and preserve them for generations to come.

- *Bogland: The Secret World That Defies Death and Protects Life*, Merritt R. Turetsky

Not quite land and not quite water, boglands have long been dismissed as wastelands—too sodden to farm, too perilous to cross, too unruly to be considered beautiful. Come closer, however, and a strange truth emerges: These wild, eerie landscapes stretch our minds, hold the

history of humanity, and will shape the future of our planet. In *Bogland*, acclaimed ecologist Merritt R. Turetsky invites readers to discover the elusive magic and surprising power of these misunderstood places, where the boundaries blur between life and death, past and present, refuge and peril. Venturing from the boreal forests of Canada to the jungles of Borneo, and from the planet's oldest bog in Greece to some of its newest in Greenland, Turetsky unveils bogs as marvelous paradoxes that defy categorization and their own systemic undervaluation. Here, radical life forms—acid-flinging mosses, amphibian-eating plants—spring from layers upon layers of dead matter. The past and present commingle with uncanny intimacy as peat safeguards artifacts for centuries, along with ancient lives unearthed later as “bog bodies” so remarkably preserved they are sometimes mistaken for the recently missing. Proverbially dangerous, bogs have offered shelter throughout history to the marginalized and resistance movements from Virginia to Vietnam. Crucially, they also regulate the planet's climate, sequestering nearly one-third of Earth's soil carbon while covering just 3 percent of its surface—even as accelerating exploitation risks transforming them from climate allies to climate foes, and erasing these ecosystems just as we're learning to appreciate them.

Food & Agriculture

- *Ancestral Appetites: Food in Prehistory*, Kristen J. Gremillion

This book explores the relationship between prehistoric people and their food, what they ate, why they ate it, and how researchers have pieced together the story of past foodways from material traces. Contemporary human food traditions encompass a seemingly infinite variety, but all are essentially strategies for meeting basic nutritional needs developed over millions of years. Humans are designed by evolution to adjust our feeding behavior and food technology to meet the demands of a wide range of environments through a combination of social and experiential learning. In this book, Kristen J. Gremillion demonstrates how these evolutionary processes have shaped the diversification of human diet over several million years of prehistory. She draws on evidence extracted from the material remains that provide the only direct evidence of how people procured, prepared, presented, and consumed food in prehistoric times.

- *Pawpaw: In Search of America's Forgotten Fruit*, Andrew Moore

The largest edible fruit native to the United States tastes like a cross between a banana and a mango. It grows wild in twenty-six states, gracing Eastern forests each fall with sweet-smelling, tropical-flavored abundance. Historically, it fed and sustained Native Americans and European explorers, presidents, and enslaved African Americans, inspiring folk songs, poetry, and scores of place names from Georgia to Illinois. Its trees are an organic grower's dream, requiring no pesticides or herbicides to thrive, and containing compounds that are among the most potent anticancer agents yet discovered. So why have so few people heard of the pawpaw, much less tasted one?

- *Growing a Revolution: Bringing Our Soil Back to Life*, David R. Montgomery

"A call to action that underscores a common goal: to change the world from the ground up."

—Dan Barber, author of *The Third Plate* For centuries, agricultural practices have eroded the soil that farming depends on, stripping it of the organic matter vital to its productivity. Now conventional agriculture is threatening disaster for the world's growing population. In *Growing a Revolution*, geologist David R. Montgomery travels the world, meeting farmers at the forefront of an agricultural movement to restore soil health. From Kansas to Ghana, he sees why adopting the three tenets of conservation agriculture—ditching the plow, planting cover crops, and growing a diversity of crops—is the solution. When farmers restore fertility to the land, this helps feed the world, cool the planet, reduce pollution, and return profitability to family farms.

- *Frostbite: How Refrigeration Changed Our Food, Our Planet, and Ourselves*, Nicola Twilley

A century ago, the introduction of artificial refrigeration overturned millennia of dietary history, launching a new chapter in human nutrition. We could now overcome not just rot, but seasonality and geography. Tomatoes in January? Avocados in Shanghai? All possible. In *Frostbite*, New Yorker contributor and cohost of the award-winning podcast *Gastropod* Nicola Twilley takes readers on a tour of the cold chain from farm to fridge, visiting off-the-beaten-path landmarks such as Missouri's subterranean cheese caves, the banana-ripening rooms of New York City, and the vast refrigerated tanks that store the nation's orange juice reserves. Today, nearly three-quarters of everything on the average American plate is processed, shipped, stored, and sold under refrigeration. It's impossible to make sense of our food system without understanding the all-but-invisible network of thermal control that underpins it. Twilley's eye-opening book is the first to reveal how refrigeration has changed what we eat, where it's grown, how it tastes, and—most importantly—how it affects our health and the environment. In the developed world, we've reaped the benefits of refrigeration for more than a century, but the costs are catching up with us. More important, refrigeration is one of the leading contributors to climate change. As the developing world races to build a US-style cold chain, Twilley asks: Can we reduce our dependence on refrigeration? Should we? A deeply researched and entertaining dive into the most important invention in the history of food and drink, *Frostbite* makes the case for a recalibration of our relationship with the fridge—and how our future might depend on it.

Indiana Natural History

- *Prairie: A Natural History of the Heart of North America*, Candice Savage

Over 2 million square miles of North America is covered in prairie, comprising the largest ecosystem on the continent. The prairies are the heartland of the continent, a vast, windswept plain that flows from Alberta south to Texas and from the Rockies east to the Mississippi River. This is big sky country, and until recently, one of the richest and most magnificent natural grasslands in the world. Today, however, the North American prairies are among the most altered environments on Earth. Thorough, detailed, and scientifically up-to-date, *A Natural History* provides a comprehensive, nontechnical guide to the biology and ecology of this fabled

environment, offering a view of the past, a vision for the future, and a clear focus on the present. Sidebars throughout highlight various grasslands species, tell fascinating natural history and conservation stories, and present the traditional Native American view of the prairie and its inhabitants.

- *American Serengeti: The Last Big Animals of the Great Plains*, Dan Flores

America's Great Plains once possessed one of the grandest wildlife spectacles of the world, equaled only by such places as the Serengeti, the Masai Mara, or the veld of South Africa. Pronghorn antelope, gray wolves, bison, coyotes, wild horses, and grizzly bears: less than two hundred years ago these creatures existed in such abundance that John James Audubon was moved to write, "it is impossible to describe or even conceive the vast multitudes of these animals." In a work that is at once a lyrical evocation of that lost splendor and a detailed natural history of these charismatic species of the historic Great Plains, veteran naturalist and outdoorsman Dan Flores draws a vivid portrait of each of these animals in their glory--and tells the harrowing story of what happened to them at the hands of market hunters and ranchers and ultimately a federal killing program in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Great Plains with its wildlife intact dazzled Americans and Europeans alike, prompting numerous literary tributes. *American Serengeti* takes its place alongside these celebratory works, showing us the grazers and predators of the plains against the vast opalescent distances, the blue mountains shimmering on the horizon, the great rippling tracts of yellowed grasslands. Far from the empty "flyover country" of recent times, this landscape is alive with a complex ecology at least 20,000 years old--a continental patrimony whose wonders may not be entirely lost, as recent efforts hold out hope of partial restoration of these historic species. Written by an author who has done breakthrough work on the histories of several of these animals--including bison, wild horses, and coyotes--*American Serengeti* is as rigorous in its research as it is intimate in its sense of wonder--the most deeply informed, closely observed view we have of the Great Plains' wild heritage.

- *Indiana Rocks!: A Guide to Geologic Sites in the Hoosier State*, Indiana Geological and Water Survey

A Story of oceans, uplift, and ice, Indiana's geological history is reflected in the vistas and landscapes you will see as you travel through the state. From the Indiana Dunes of Lake Michigan, one of the world's largest displays of lakeshore dunes, to the historic little town of New Harmony, where American geology had its beginnings, this book is your guide to 50 of the most significant and interesting sites in Indiana. You will find kettle lakes formed by melting glaciers, gorgeous waterfalls carved into the rock, and a world-renowned karst landscape peppered with sinkholes and caves. Explore the Falls of the Ohio, the location of the largest exposed Devonian fossil beds in the world, or wander through the campus of Indiana University and tour the buildings and carvings of Salem Limestone, a building stone treasured by architects. Researched and written by Polly Sturgeon, the Outreach Coordinator of the Indiana Geological and Water Survey, with help from her colleagues, this book is a cross section of the Hoosier state and a treasure of geological and historical surprises.

- *An Incomplete History of St. Joseph County*, Aaron Hellman

Did you know that the founder of New Carlisle is credited with introducing ice cream to Japan? Or that a famous slave trial in South Bend would reverberate through the country and lead to the start of the Civil War? Did you know that Mishawaka was once the Peppermint Capital of the World? Did you know that Indiana and Michigan almost went to war over the narrow strip of land that contains most of St. Joseph County? *AN INCOMPLETE HISTORY OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY* tells these stories and more. Throughout the tales of twelve epic bike rides spanning more than 500 miles, you'll discover the history of the towns, cities, rivers, industries, and commerce that have made St. Joseph County what it is today. If you've ever wondered what an episode of Anthony Bourdain's *Parts Unknown* would look like if it was instead a book about the history of the place called St. Joseph County, wonder no more.

- *Beyond Walden: The Hidden History of America's Kettle Lakes and Ponds*, Robert M. Thorson

The geology, ecology, and cultural history of kettle lakes from Maine to Montana. Lakes are a beloved part of the American landscape, and kettles are the most common type, spanning the northern part of the country from New England to the High Plains. Kettle lakes are depressions formed by meltdown of glacial ice and filled with freshwater. Unlike other kinds of lakes that have significant inlet or outlet streams, kettle lakes are natural wells tapping the groundwater table. A source of joyful relaxation and recreation for generations, kettle lakes also have historical and cultural significance. Within a few years of the 1836 publication of Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Nature*, a pivotal book combining nature with spirituality and religion, Henry David Thoreau had permanently linked Walden Pond—America's most famous kettle lake—to the Transcendentalist movement. Each kettle lake tells a story, and in Robert Thorson's hands their collective saga—and the threats to their health—give us crucial insight into the dangers facing our vulnerable freshwater ecosystem.

Nature Writing & Essays

- *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*, Amy Tan

Tracking the natural beauty that surrounds us, *The Backyard Bird Chronicles* maps the passage of time through daily entries, thoughtful questions, and beautiful original sketches. With boundless charm and wit, author Amy Tan charts her foray into birding and the natural wonders of the world. In 2016, Amy Tan grew overwhelmed by the state of the Hatred and misinformation became a daily presence on social media, and the country felt more divisive than ever. In search

of peace, Tan turned toward the natural world just beyond her window and, specifically, the birds visiting her yard. But what began as an attempt to find solace turned into something far greater—an opportunity to savor quiet moments during a volatile time, connect to nature in a meaningful way, and imagine the intricate lives of the birds she admired.

- *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*, Robin Wall Kimmerer

As Indigenous scientist Robin Wall Kimmerer harvests Serviceberries alongside the birds, she considers the ethic of reciprocity that lies at the heart of the gift economy. How, she asks, can we learn from Indigenous wisdom and the plant world to reimagine what we value most? Our economy is rooted in scarcity, competition, and the hoarding of resources, and we have surrendered our values to a system that actively harms what we love. Meanwhile, the Serviceberry's relationship with the natural world is an embodiment of interconnectedness and gratitude. The tree distributes its wealth—its abundance of sweet, juicy berries—to meet the needs of its natural community. And this distribution ensures its own survival. As Kimmerer explains, "Serviceberries show us another model, one based upon reciprocity, rather than accumulation, where wealth and security come from the quality of your relationships, not from the illusion of self-sufficiency."

- *Dispersals: On Plants, Borders, and Belonging*, Jessica J. Lee

A seed slips beyond a garden wall. A tree is planted on a precarious border. A shrub is stolen from its culture and its land. What happens when these plants leave their original homes and put down roots elsewhere? In fourteen essays, *Dispersals* explores the entanglements of the plant and human from species considered invasive, like giant hogweed; to those vilified but intimate, like soy; and those like kelp, on which our futures depend. Each of the plants considered in this collection are somehow perceived as being 'out of place'—weeds, samples collected through imperial science, crops introduced and transformed by our hand. Combining memoir, history, and scientific research in poetic prose, Jessica J. Lee meditates on the question of how both plants and people come to belong, why both cross borders, and how our futures are more entwined than we might imagine.

- *Oaxaca Journal*, Oliver Sacks

Oliver Sacks is well known as an explorer of the human mind—a neurologist with a gift for complex, insightful portrayals of people and their conditions. However, he is also a card-carrying member of the American Fern Society, and since childhood has been fascinated by these primitive plants and their ability to survive and adapt in many climates. *Oaxaca Journal* is Sacks's spellbinding account of his trip with a group of fellow fern enthusiasts to the beautiful, history-steeped province of Oaxaca, Mexico. Bringing together Sacks's passion for natural history and the richness of human culture with his sharp eye for detail, *Oaxaca Journal* is a captivating evocation of a place, its plants, its people, and its myriad wonders.

- *When Trees Testify: Science, Wisdom, History, and America's Black Botanical Legacy*, Beronda L. Montgomery

The histories of trees in America are also the histories of Black Americans. Pecan trees were domesticated by an enslaved African named Antoine; sycamore trees were both havens and signposts for people trying to escape enslavement; poplar trees are historically associated with lynching; and willow bark has offered the gift of medicine. These trees, and others, testify not only to the complexity of the Black American narrative but also to a heritage of Black botanical expertise that, like Native American traditions, predates the United States entirely. In *When Trees Testify*, award-winning plant biologist Beronda L. Montgomery explores the way seven trees—as well as the cotton shrub—are intertwined with Black history and culture. She reveals how knowledge surrounding these trees has shaped America since the very beginning. As Montgomery shows, trees are material witnesses to the lives of enslaved Africans and their descendants. Combining the wisdom of science and history with stories from her own path to botany, Montgomery talks to majestic trees, and in this unique and compelling narrative, they answer.

- *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*, Elisabeth Tova Bailey

In a work that beautifully demonstrates the rewards of closely observing nature, Elisabeth Bailey shares an inspiring and intimate story of her uncommon encounter with a *Neohelix albolabris*—a common woodland snail. While an illness keeps her bedridden, Bailey watches a wild snail that has taken up residence on her nightstand. As a result, she discovers the solace and sense of wonder that this mysterious creature brings and comes to a greater understanding of her own confined place in the world. Intrigued by the snail's molluscan anatomy, cryptic defenses, clear decision making, hydraulic locomotion, and mysterious courtship activities, Bailey becomes an astute and amused observer, providing a candid and engaging look into the curious life of this underappreciated small animal. Told with wit and grace, *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* is a remarkable journey of survival and resilience, showing us how a small part of the natural world illuminates our own human existence and provides an appreciation of what it means to be fully alive.

Nature & Well-being

- *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, Richard Louv

In this influential work about the staggering divide between children and the outdoors, child advocacy expert Richard Louv directly links the lack of nature in the lives of today's wired generation—he calls it nature-deficit—to some of the most disturbing childhood trends, such as the rises in obesity, attention disorders, and depression. *Last Child in the Woods* is the first book to bring together a new and growing body of research indicating that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults. More than just raising an alarm, Louv offers practical solutions and simple ways to heal the broken bond—and many are right in our own backyard.

- *The Call of the Honeyguide: What Science Tells Us about How to Live Well with the Rest of Life*, Rob Dunn

In the woodlands of sub-Saharan Africa, sometime deep in our species' past, something strange a bird called out, not to warn others of human presence, but to call attention to herself. Having found a beehive, that bird—a honeyguide—sought human aid to break in. The behavior can seem almost How would a bird come to think that people could help her? Isn't life simply bloodier than that? As Rob Dunn argues in *The Call of the Honeyguide*, it isn't. Nature is red in tooth and claw, but in equal measure, life works together. Cells host even smaller life, wrapped in a web of mutual interdependence. Ants might go to war, but they also tend fungi, aphids, and even trees. And we humans work not just with honeyguides but with yeast, crops, and pets. Ecologists call these beneficial relationships mutualisms. And they might be the most important forces in the evolution of life. We humans often act as though we are all alone, independent from the rest of life. As *The Call of the Honeyguide* shows, we are not. It is a call to action for a more beneficent, less lonely future.

Fiction

- *The Ministry for the Future*, Kim Stanley Robinson

Established in 2025, the purpose of the new organization was simple: To advocate for the world's future generations and to protect all living creatures, present and future. It soon became known as the Ministry for the Future, and this is its story. From legendary science fiction author Kim Stanley Robinson comes a vision of climate change unlike any ever imagined. Told entirely through fictional eye-witness accounts, *The Ministry for the Future* is a masterpiece of the imagination, the story of how climate change will affect us all over the decades to come. Its setting is not a desolate, post-apocalyptic world, but a future that is almost upon us—and in which we might just overcome the extraordinary challenges we face. It is a novel both immediate and impactful, desperate and hopeful in equal measure, and it is one of the most powerful and original books on climate change ever written.

- *The Antidote*, Karen Russell

The Antidote opens on Black Sunday, as a historic dust storm ravages the fictional town of Uz, Nebraska. But Uz is already collapsing—not just under the weight of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl drought, but beneath its own violent histories. *The Antidote* follows a "Prairie Witch," whose body serves as a bank vault for peoples' memories and secrets; a Polish wheat farmer who learns how quickly a hoarded blessing can become a curse; his orphan niece, a basketball star and witch's apprentice in furious flight from her grief; a voluble scarecrow; and a New Deal photographer whose time-traveling camera threatens to reveal both the town's secrets and its fate. Russell's novel is above all a reckoning with a nation's forgetting—enacting the settler amnesia and willful omissions passed down from generation to generation, and unearthing not only horrors but shimmering possibilities. *The Antidote* echoes with urgent

warnings for our own climate emergency, challenging readers with a vision of what might have been—and what still could be.

- *American War*, Omar El Akkad

An audacious and powerful debut novel: a second American Civil War, a devastating plague, and one family caught deep in the middle—a story that asks what might happen if America were to turn its most devastating policies and deadly weapons upon itself. Sarat Chestnut, born in Louisiana, is only six when the Second American Civil War breaks out in 2074. But even she knows that oil is outlawed, that Louisiana is half underwater, and that unmanned drones fill the sky. When her father is killed and her family is forced into Camp Patience for displaced persons, she begins to grow up shaped by her particular time and place. But not everyone at Camp Patience is who they claim to be. Eventually Sarat is befriended by a mysterious functionary, under whose influence she is turned into a deadly instrument of war. The decisions that she makes will have tremendous consequences not just for Sarat but for her family and her country, rippling through generations of strangers and kin alike.

- *The Overstory*, Richard Powers

The Overstory is a sweeping, impassioned work of activism and resistance that is also a stunning evocation of - and paean to - the natural world. From the roots to the crown and back to the seeds, Richard Powers's twelfth novel unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fables that range from antebellum New York to the late twentieth-century Timber Wars of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. There is a world alongside ours—vast, slow, interconnected, resourceful, magnificently inventive, and almost invisible to us. This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see that world and who are drawn up into its unfolding catastrophe.

- *North Woods*, Daniel Mason

When a pair of young lovers abscond from a Puritan colony, little do they know that their humble cabin in the woods will become the home of an extraordinary succession of human and nonhuman characters alike. An English soldier, destined for glory, abandons the battlefields of the New World to devote himself to apples. A pair of spinster twins navigate war and famine, envy and desire. A crime reporter unearths a mass grave—only to discover that the ancient trees refuse to give up their secrets. A lovelorn painter, a sinister conman, a stalking panther, a lusty beetle: As each inhabitant confronts the wonder and mystery around them, they begin to realize that the dark, raucous, beautiful past is very much alive.

- *A Girl of the Limberlost*, Gene Stratton-Porter

Of all the books written by Hoosier writers, Gene Stratton-Porter's *A Girl of the Limberlost* is unquestionably the most cherished: the timeless story of an impoverished young girl, Elnora Comstock, growing up on the edge of the Limberlost swamp. Elnora Comstock has served as a role model for successive generations of independent young readers.

- The Bog Wife, Kay Chronister

Since time immemorial, the Haddesley family has tended the cranberry bog. In exchange, the bog sustains them. The staunch seasons of their lives are governed by a strict covenant that is renewed each generation with the ritual sacrifice of their patriarch, and in return, the bog produces a "bog-wife." Brought to life from vegetation, this woman is meant to carry on the family line. But when the bog fails--or refuses--to honor the bargain, the Haddesleys, a group of discordant siblings still grieving the mother who mysteriously disappeared years earlier, face an unknown future. Middle child Wenna, summoned back to the dilapidated family manor just as her marriage is collapsing, believes the Haddesleys must abandon their patrimony. Her siblings are not so easily persuaded. Eldest daughter Eda, de facto head of the household, seeks to salvage the compact by desecrating it. Younger son Percy retreats into the wilderness in a dangerous bid to summon his own bog-wife. And as youngest daughter Nora takes desperate measures to keep her warring siblings together, fledgling patriarch Charlie uncovers a disturbing secret that casts doubt over everything the family has ever believed about itself.