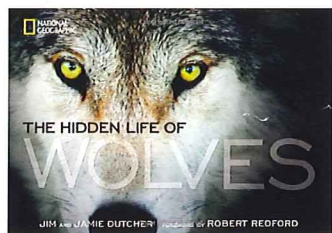


Sawtooth Mountains. For the next five years they lived with the growing wolf pack, documenting the animals' social interactions. The resulting book is a beautiful tribute to wolves, with lovingly rendered illustrations, handsome maps, and other artwork furnished by *National Geographic*. The images captured by the Dutchers are as intimate as any ever published of wild wolves (though hand-whelped, all were eventually released into the wilds of central Idaho). However, while including factual information about wolf introduction in the West, the book unfortunately perpetuates the myth that wolves are at risk of

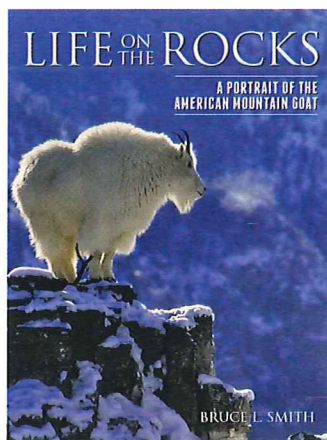


being hunted to extinction. In fact, the Northern Rocky Mountain population remains strong and stable, at five times the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's initial recovery goal, even with several years of hunting and trapping. Wolf fans will love this book. Wolf biologists less so (likely raising their eyebrows at images of the Dutchers letting wolves lick their faces). And wolf critics? Let's just say this is not a book they'll want to include on their Christmas wish list. ■

**Life on the Rocks:** A Portrait of the American Mountain Goat

Bruce L. Smith. University Press of Colorado. 192 pp. \$34.95

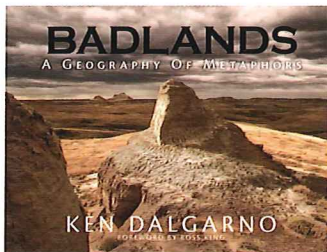
"I've watched a goat climb to the top of a dizzying pinnacle and stand with all four feet together on a summit measuring only eight inches square," writes recently retired U.S. Fish &



Wildlife Service wildlife biologist Bruce L. Smith in this comprehensive and visually compelling tribute to one of Montana's most remarkable animals. "Then he raised a hind foot, scratched behind one ear, and shook the dust from his coat, unimpressed with the feat as I looked on in wonder." Smith first began marveling at mountain goats as a student at the University of Montana in the early 1970s. He has been studying—and photographing—them ever since. The result of this 40-plus-year fascination is a coffee-table book that includes his personal accounts of following mountain goats across some of North America's harshest terrain, chapters on the animals' biology and conservation, and stunning photographs of the goats in their rocky, snow-clad environment. ■

**Badlands:** A Geography of Metaphors

Ken Dalgarno. Red Deer Press. 162 pp. \$45

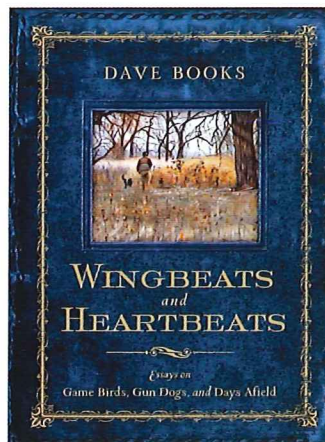


The badlands need a public relations makeover, starting with the name. The arid landscapes of the northern Great Plains also need to shed their image as being known only for hiding outlaws, sending ranchers and farmers to the poorhouse, and reducing pioneer wagon trains to skeletons and dust. That's because the ornate and sometimes otherworldly stone formations of badlands have entranced visitors for thousands of years. They are beautiful, haunting, and spellbinding. Saskatchewan photographer and painter Ken Dalgarno's book is a visual tribute to these intriguing yet little understood landscapes—including Montana's Makoshika State Park, home to what he calls "the baddest" of the badlands and some of the region's tallest and most captivating hoodoos. ■

**Wingbeats and Heartbeats:**

Essays on Game Birds, Gun Dogs, and Days Afield

Dave Books. University of Wisconsin Press. 228 pp. \$21.95



A great writer helps you to see something you've looked at a thousand times but never noticed before. That's Dave Books, author of this collection of upland bird-hunting stories. Books, who was editor of *Montana Outdoors* from 1978 to

2001, is a hunter who pays attention—to the sound of a flushing Hungarian partridge, the quizzical look of a Brittany, and the journals of pioneers who wrote of sharptail nests so numerous that wagon wheels dripped with the yolks of broken eggs crushed underneath. Touched with gentle humor as well as shotgunning wisdom that can come only from a lifetime hunting the Upper Midwest and Montana's high plains, this rich collection of entertaining, informative stories will make you want to grab a shotgun, whistle up your dog, and head out the door. ■

**A Field Guide to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks**

Kurt F. Johnson. Farcountry Press. 248 pp. \$24.95

Earlier this year I was showing an old college buddy and his family around Yellowstone. I sure could have used this excellent field guide. His boys, ages 10 and 11, asked about everything they saw. I was fine answering questions about big game, most birds, and basic park history, but they also wanted to know about geology, geothermal features, insects, scat, and even the constellations. Yikes. With this book tucked in my pack I could have answered it all. In addition to the park's main wildlife attractions—bison, elk, pronghorn, wolves, and moose—the easy-to-use guide features detailed color photographs of moths, butterflies, dragonflies, water bugs, beetles, and plants—including every flower you'd ever see in Yellowstone as well as all the major tree species. Finally I can show visitors just how "knowledgeable" I really am about the park. ■