



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

For Release: November 19, 1992

Megan Durham (202) 208-4131

A HOLIDAY GIFT THAT'S REALLY FOR THE BIRDS

Looking for a holiday gift that will encourage your child's interest in nature or satisfy the person who has everything?

Fifty Birds of Town and City, a colorful book by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, could be the gift that will stimulate a lifelong interest in birds.

The book features color paintings and short descriptions of 50 birds you are likely to see where you live -- birds like the barn swallow, cardinal, goldfinch, nighthawk, green heron, and yellow warbler. The 50-page hardcover book with illustrations by wildlife artist Bob Hines is a great first bird book for kids or for people who are interested in birds but don't want a complex field guide.

You can add to your gift by purchasing a good quality birdfeeder or a birdbath, and then see how many of the "50 birds" come to your yard.

And while you're enjoying the birds, you might want to know that they are there -- in part -- because the American people have gone to a lot of trouble to conserve them. In fact, in 1993 the United States will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its major conservation law that protects birds: the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Before this farsighted law was enacted in 1918, egrets and many other birds were being slaughtered to provide feathers for ladies' hats and other clothing. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act ended the indiscriminate killing of birds and was the cornerstone of later laws that established hundreds of National Wildlife Refuges for migrating birds.

You can order Fifty Birds of Town and City for \$7.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402 (Stock Number 024-010-00382-1).

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