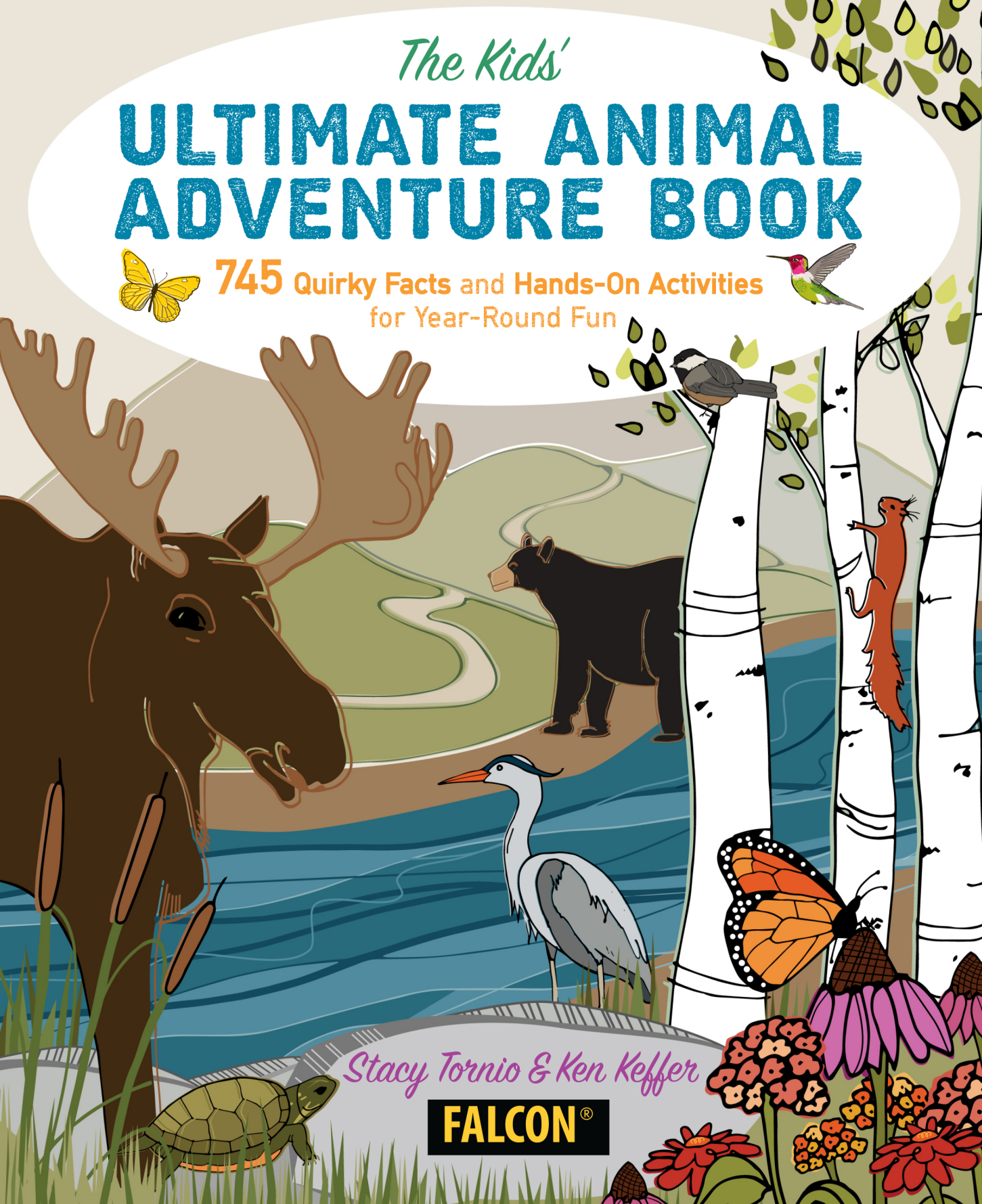

The Kids'
ULTIMATE ANIMAL ADVENTURE BOOK
745 Quirky Facts and Hands-On Activities for Year-Round Fun
Stacy Tornio & Ken Keffer
FALCON®


SEE

DUCK

Lots of birds get lumped into the duck family, but you might want to be careful about lumping all water birds as ducks. For instance, grebes, loons, coots, and auks all look duck-like, but they are different bird families altogether. Ducks are often underappreciated too. It's easy to see ducks swimming on a lake or river, but you probably don't really pay them much attention. It's time to show ducks some respect!



LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS

1. Ducks are divided into dabblers and divers. The dabblers stay mostly on top of the water and just dip their heads in the water for food. But the divers actually dive down for food.
2. Ducks are another bird with males that are usually more brightly colored. For instance, the male mallard has a bright-green head, while the female is brown overall.
3. You often see or hear about people who have pet ducks. These are usually domestic ducks, and they often look a bit different from wild ducks. Every once in a while, a domestic duck will escape, and you might mistakenly think you've discovered a new species.
4. Male ducks have a grand name. They are called drakes. Doesn't that sound like royalty?
5. Most ducklings take off and swim to the water almost immediately after hatching. They can be swimming within a few hours.
6. You know the duck's quack sound? Well, not all ducks quack. Plus, it's often the female that is doing that familiar quacking. Most male ducks make a few sounds, but they're not the traditional quack we think of.
7. Ducks can keep one eye open when they sleep as a way to watch out for danger.

Types: More than thirty species in North America
Size: Many ducks are around 20 inches, but the size can vary.
Eats: Algae, plants, and insects; some ducks eat small water creatures, including some fish.
Eats them: Birds of prey, snakes, turtles; people during duck-hunting season
Range: Many duck species throughout the United States; most migrate, so they'll head to coasts in winter.



GO OUTSIDE

You're almost guaranteed to find ducklings if you visit local ponds in spring. See how many different duck species you can see, and count the ducklings.