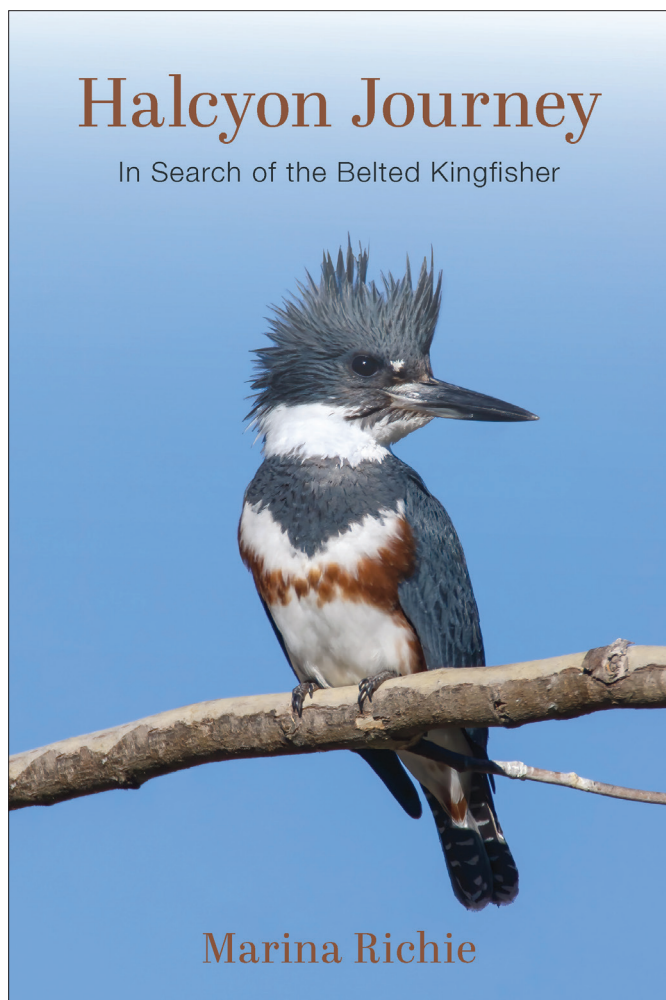


Halcyon Journey

In Search of the Belted Kingfisher

Marina Richie



More than one hundred species of kingfishers brighten every continent but Antarctica. Not all are fishing birds. They range in size from the African dwarf kingfisher to the laughing kookaburra of Australia. This first book to feature North America's belted kingfisher is a lyrical story of observation, revelation, and curiosity in the presence of flowing waters.

The kingfisher—also known as the halcyon bird—is linked to the mythic origin of halcyon days, a state of happiness that Marina Richie hopes to find outside her back door in Missoula, Montana. Epiphanies and a citizen science discovery punctuate days tracking a bird that outwits at every turn. The female is more colorful than the male (unusual and puzzling) and the birds' earthen nest holes are difficult to locate.

While the heart of the drama takes place on Rattlesnake Creek in Missoula, the author's adventures in search of kingfisher kin on the lower Rio Grande, in South Africa, and in London illuminate her relationships with the birds of Montana. In the quiet of winter, she explores tribal stories of the kingfisher as messenger and helper, pivotal qualities for her quest. For all who love birds or simply seek solace in nature, *Halcyon Journey* is an inviting introduction to the mythic and mysterious belted kingfisher.

ISBN: 978-0-87071-203-6, \$22.95, paperback
Available May 2022

"We come to know birds and ourselves in new light through this passionate and inspiring exploration. Wonder emerges from meticulous and loving observation of the bright lives of kingfishers." —David George Haskell, author of Pulitzer finalist *The Forest Unseen* and Burroughs medalist *The Songs of Trees*

"Much is still unknown about the belted kingfisher, surprisingly—hence the gift of this beautifully written book, which offers the best of citizen science and lyrical observation." —Laura Pritchett, author of PEN USA Award winner *Hell's Bottom, Colorado*

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