

AMERICA'S TOP 10 VIEWS BACKPACKER

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THE MOUNTAIN ISSUE

181 AMAZING HIKES AND ESSENTIAL SKILLS

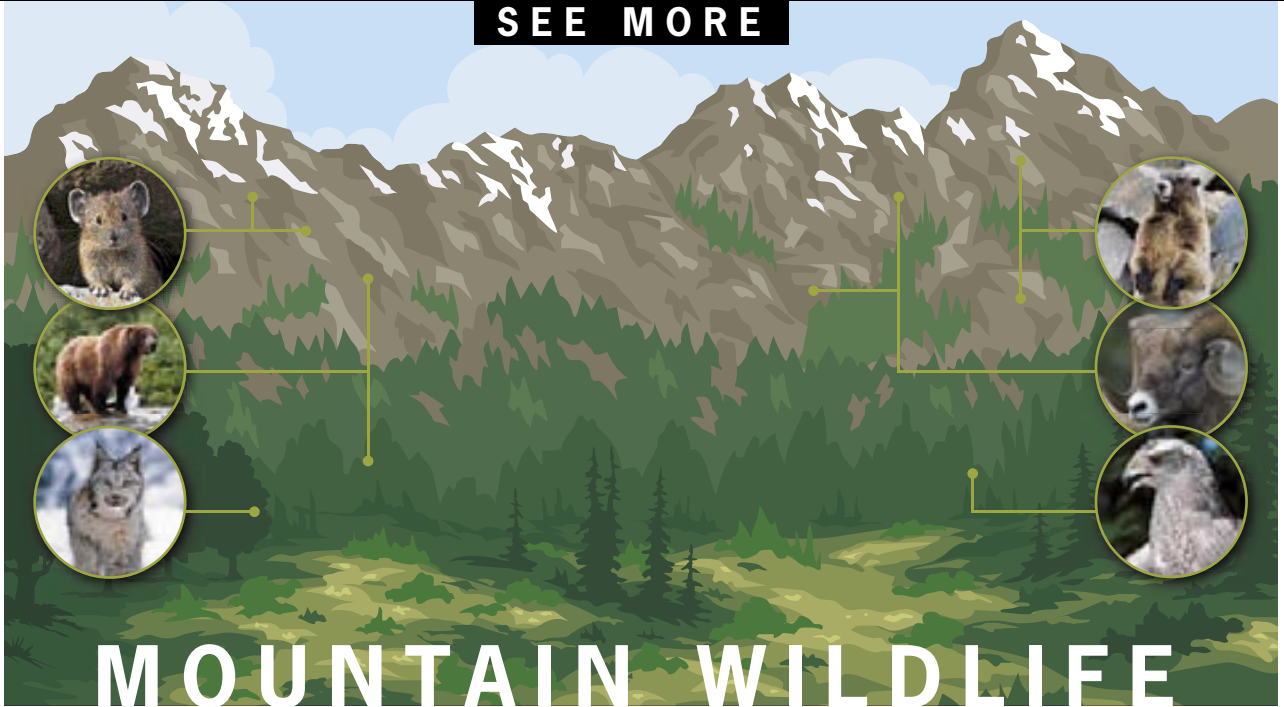
THIEF OR THRU-HIKER?
A CRIME SPREE ROCKS
THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

**EDITORS'
CHOICE
AWARDS**

LOOKING SOUTH
FROM POLYCHROME
PASS IN DENALI
NATIONAL PARK

APRIL 2007

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MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE

	APPEARANCE	RANGE	HABITAT	FOOD CHAIN	MOUNTAIN ADAPTATION	HOW TO SEE	CLUES	FIND HERE
American pika <i>Ochotona princeps</i>	This rabbit cousin looks like a tailless hamster, with light-brown, rounded ears.	Western mountains 8,000 to 13,000 feet	Talus and boulder fields	Flowers, grasses, broad-leafed plants Eagles, hawks, bobcats, foxes, weasels	Dense fur keeps non-hibernating pikas warm; they cache food in their dens to survive winter.	Early in the morning, look for pikas collecting grasses to dry.	Warning call like a goat's bleat Grass piles drying in sun	Mt. Whitney's switchbacks from Whitney Portal trailhead, 13,000 feet Inyo National Forest, CA
Hoary marmot <i>Marmota caligata</i>	Named for its "hoary" (white) upper body that contrasts with its brown hindquarters	Northern Rockies, Washington's Cascades, Alaska ranges	Fractured rocks and rocky plateaus near moist vegetation Thick forests, subalpine meadows	Grasses, broad-leafed herbs Eagles, foxes, grizzlies	Sleepyhead marmots hibernate 9 months during long alpine winters.	May to August, watch marmots play and lounge on boulders.	Alarm virtuoso has 4 distinct warning calls: ascending, descending, flat, and trills.	Burroughs Mountain trailhead, 6,400 feet, at sunrise Mt. Rainier National Park, WA
Grizzly bear <i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i>	Small ears, dished face, and large, muscular shoulder hump. This brown-bear subspecies is named for the grizzled (gray) hairs in its coat.	Northern Rockies, North Cascades, Alaska 3,000 to 12,000 feet	Vegetated slopes and valleys Thick forests, subalpine meadows	90% of diet is bulbs, roots, and huckleberries. Fish, carrion, insects, small mammals	Keen sense of smell locates food; 3- to 4-inch-long curved claws for digging	May to October, watch grizzlies foraging at dawn and dusk, but only from a distance.	Dig marks, slashed vegetation, and shredded logs; scat resembling blueberry pies.	Grinnell Glacier Trail on Grinnell Mountain's south slope, 6,000 feet Glacier National Park, MT
Bighorn sheep <i>Ovis canadensis</i>	Brown with white rump. Rams grow curled horns up to 43" long, while ewes have shorter spikes.	Western mountains 5,500 to 10,000 feet	Cliff-filled slopes and ridges near grassy meadows	Alpine grasses Mountain lions, wolves, grizzlies	Thick coats and sure-footed hooves suit bighorns' favorite terrain of precipitous slopes.	Spot bighorns descending to meadows in the morning, and returning to cliffs at dusk.	Silhouetted on ridges and boulders; traversing steep slopes on horizontal trails	Descending from Bighorn Mountain across US 34 at Sheep Lakes, 8,500 feet Rocky Mountain National Park, CO
Canada lynx <i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Twice the size of a house cat, it has gray fur, long legs, bobbed tail, ear tufts, and enormous, furry feet.	Northern Rockies, Cascades, Alaska, Utah, Colorado, Minnesota, Maine; 1,000 to 7,900 feet	Young and regenerating forests with dense cover	Snowshoe hares (75% of diet) Mountain lions, wolves	Thickly padded feet allow natural snowshoeing in winter, and silent stalking in other seasons.	Rarely seen in daylight hours, these predators hunt mostly at night.	Fist-sized tracks in dirt or snow showing 4 wide, clawless toepads	Brushy forests on Katahdin, below 4,000 feet Baxter State Park, ME
Northern goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Look for a blue-gray back, finely barred underside, and red eyes; its blazing white eyebrows offset a black eye mask.	High forests in Western mountains, Great Plains, northern Appalachians, Great Lakes region	Mature forests of tall conifers (spruce, fir, pine)	Songbirds, squirrels, snowshoe hares Great horned owls, eagles, martens, wolves	Short wings and long, rudderlike tail allows acrobatic pursuit of forest prey.	Goshawks hunt among trees during the day, and often scout along the forest edge.	Shriill, gull-like, clear, repetitive "klee, klee, klee"	Conifer forests along Blue Mountain Fire Tower Trail, below 3,700 feet Adirondack Park, NY

