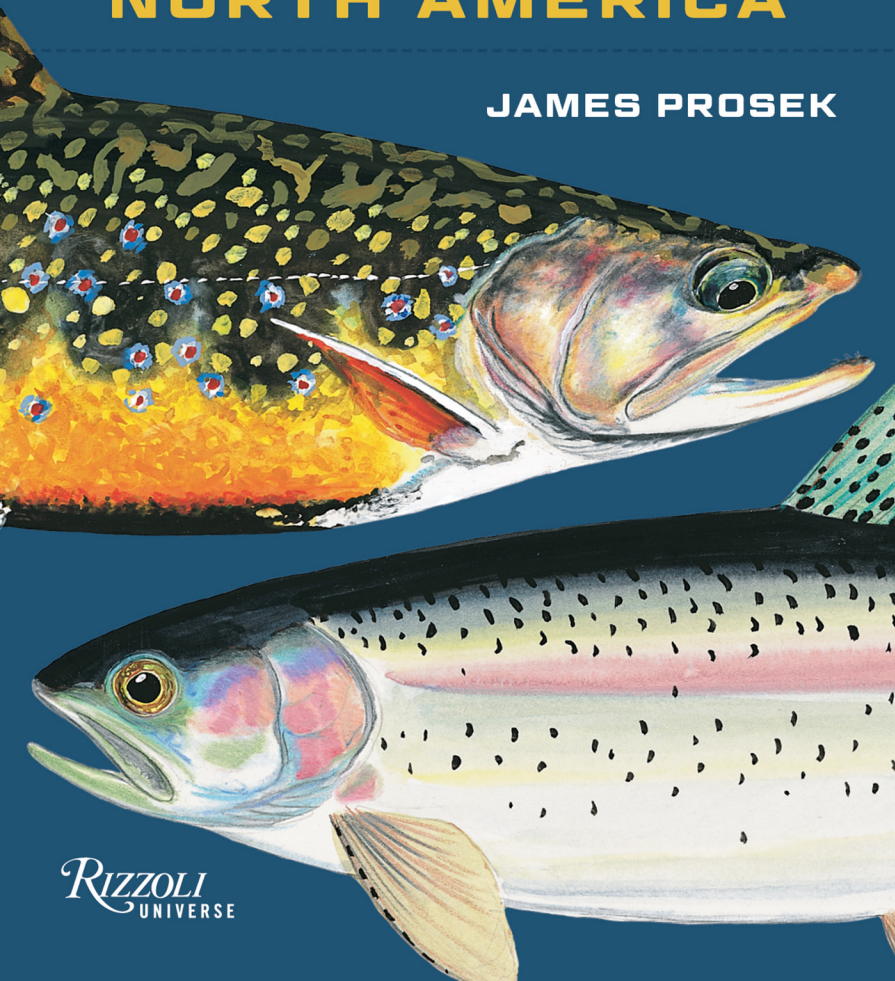
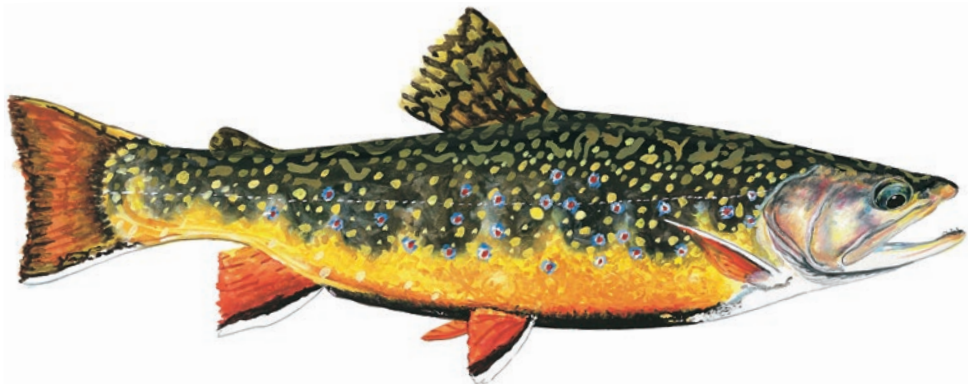


# TROUT *of* NORTH AMERICA

JAMES PROSEK



RIZZOLI  
UNIVERSE



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## **BROOK TROUT**

*Salvelinus fontinalis*

# BROOK TROUT

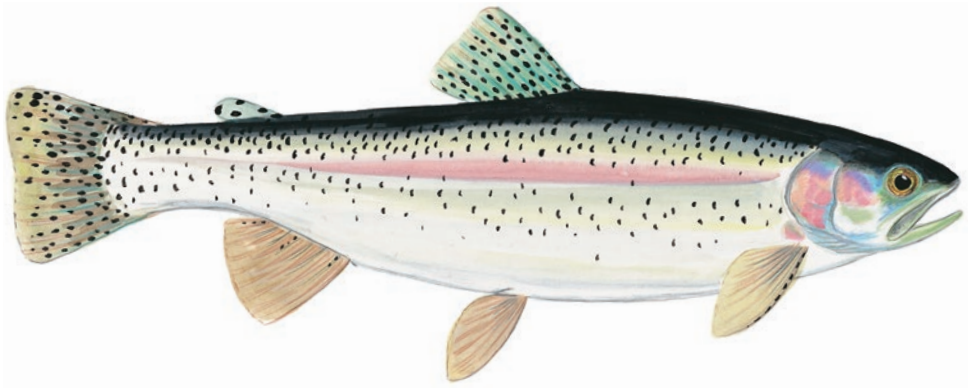
*Salvelinus fontinalis*

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**Region:** North America

**Identifying Marks:** Crimson spots with violet-blue halos, golden and red belly as spawning time approaches

From Maine to Minnesota, from Hudson Bay to the mountains of northern Georgia, brookies have a place to call home. They spawn from September in the north to December in the south, their hormones triggered by changing light and water temperature. Few creatures are more stunning than the brook trout in full spawning dress. Its back is olive to steel blue, cut with golden wormlike markings, fading to more shades of scarlet and vermilion than an autumn sugar maple. Most striking are the crimson spots with halos of violet blue that dazzle the eye in a crazy dimensional illusion. Brook trout are great survivors, able to endure harsh winters and find cold springs in which to spend the hot summers. They can live in the tiniest of streams, but given room and food, they will expand and adapt to conquer their new environs.



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## **EAGLE LAKE RAINBOW TROUT**

*Oncorhynchus mykiss aquilarum*

# EAGLE LAKE RAINBOW TROUT

*Oncorhynchus mykiss aquilarum*

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**Region:** California, United States

**Identifying Marks:** Black spots, rosy stripe as spawning time approaches

Near Susanville, California, by the desolate Brockman Flat Lava Beds, lies the vast expanse of Eagle Lake. The water's alkalinity is lethal to most introduced fish, but this native trout has evolved over thousands of years to tolerate it; without much possibility of hybridization, the rainbows of Eagle Lake have remained genetically pure. Named *Salmo aquilarum* in 1917 (*aquila* is Latin for "eagle"), this fish is likely a redband, though it has characteristics of both the rainbow and the cutthroat. For most of their history, Eagle Lake trout would ascend small tributaries like Pine Creek as spawning time approached in the spring to drop their eggs and milt. But spawning on this degraded creek is no longer successful, and during the 1950s these trout were thought to be near extinction. Since then, artificial propagation has supported a population no longer able to reproduce itself. They have also been planted in other Northern California lakes with similar alkalinity.



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## **COLUMBIA RIVER REDBAND TROUT**

*Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri*

# COLUMBIA RIVER REDBAND TROUT

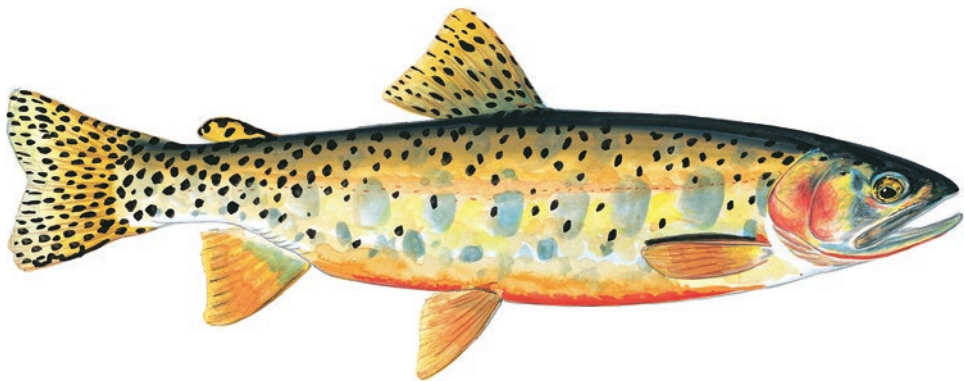
*Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri*

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**Regions:** Oregon and Washington, United States

**Identifying Marks:** Black spots and parr marks, bold coloration

These redbands are associated with the Columbia River basin, including such rivers as Spokane, Snake, Pend Oreille, and the famous Deschutes, where they're called redsides. Their coloration can be quite exquisite, with yellows, purples, reds, and greens washed among the distinct black spots and the elliptical parr marks characteristic of juveniles. The fish pictured here is typical of small populations isolated in headwater streams. In 1836, using specimens from the Columbia River, Sir John Richardson named this redband *Salmo gairdneri* in honor of Meredith Gairdner, a naturalist who worked for the Hudson's Bay Company and collected the specimens.



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**COLORADO RIVER CUTTHROAT TROUT**

*Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus*



# COLORADO RIVER CUTTHROAT TROUT

*Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus*

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**Regions:** Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and California, United States

**Identifying Marks:** Black spots, orange-red slashes under the jaw

Once the dominant fish of the Upper Colorado and Green River drainages, the Colorado River cutthroat is now relegated to headwater creeks above barrier falls. More brilliantly colored than the cutthroats of the Yellowstone River and Bonneville drainages, it resembles the most beautiful of Colorado sunsets. Roughly 20 pure populations survive in Colorado, as well as a few in headwaters of the Green River in Wyoming and the Escalante River in Utah. There has been limited distribution of this trout, but one case is worth noting. In 1931, eggs from Trappers Lake in Colorado were transplanted to the California Sierra in the Williamson Lakes, where the trout remain pure to this day. The population in Trappers Lake, however, has been damaged by the introduction of rainbows.



*Spawning Colorado River  
Cutthroat Trout*



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**WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT**

*Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi*

# WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT

*Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi*

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**Region:** Western United States

**Identifying Marks:** Medium black spots, red and yellow coloring

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark first collected cutthroat trout in 1805 in the Great Falls of the Missouri River. As Lewis described in his journal, "These trout are from 16 to 23 inches in length, precisely resemble our mountain or speckled trout [i.e., brook trout] in form and the position of their fins, but the specks on these are of a deep black instead of the red or gold of those common in the United States. These are furnished with long teeth on the pallet and tongue and have generally a small dash of red on each side behind the front ventral fins. The flesh is of a pale yellowish red, or, when in good order, of a rose red." In 1853, a surgeon with the Pacific Railroad Survey collected specimens and sent them to Charles Girard, who in 1856 named this new species *lewisi* in the explorer's honor. Of course, the cutthroat's name, *clarkii*, is derived from the surname of William Clark.



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## **SEBAGO OR LANDLOCKED SALMON**

*Salmo salar sebago*

# SEBAGO OR LANDLOCKED SALMON

*Salmo salar sebago*

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**Region:** Northeastern United States

**Identifying Marks:** Black spots above the lateral line,  
slender tail base

In Maine, anglers on Sebago Lake see ice-out as the beginning of the annual run of smelt up tributary streams to spawn—and the time to catch the landlocked salmon that feed on them, most notably the Sebago salmon. Salmon used to be so abundant in New England that farmers would pitchfork them from the river to fertilize their cornfields, and wagons crossing smaller tributaries would kill several by accident. Servants sometimes stipulated in their contracts that salmon not be served at meals more than three times a week. These generous times, of course, are long gone.