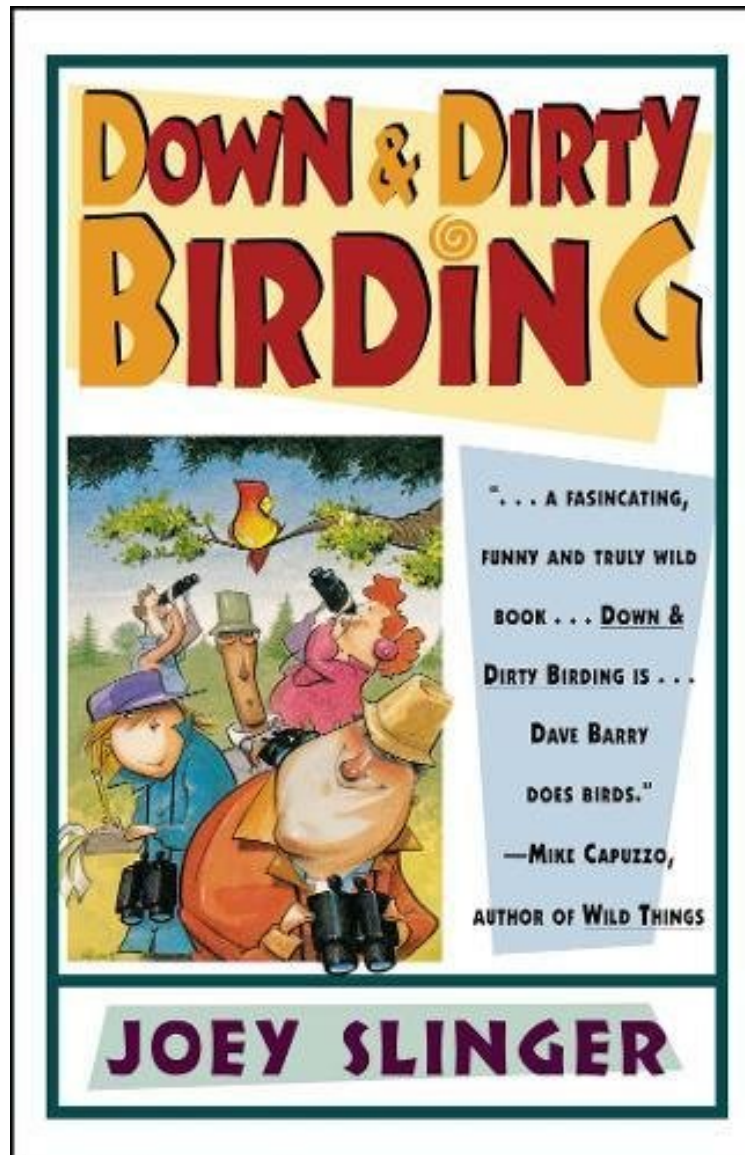


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whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Down and Dirty Birding: From the Sublime to the Ridiculous, Here's All the Outrageous but True Stuff You've Ever Wanted to Know About North American Birds*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The wild, exciting life of BIRDS!By Diana StackThe author may not be the biggest authority on birding, but he definitely brings a "spark" to it with this book. If you know someone who would be a birder if the birds weren't so damn boring, then THIS is the book for them! It's a pretty hilarious read for anyone who simply loves birds and, I recommend this book 100%. I've read it twice now. This is NOT, however, for the birder who will pick apart and correct every "myna" (get it?) detail of a "bird" book. This book is VERY dangerous for them, as the laughter it induces could cause them severe facial cracking. ;)0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. book and seller reviewBy Sharon GorleyExcellent, informative and fun book. I already own it and bought another copy for a friend who I know will love it. Seller sent book in a timely manner, it was just as advertised. I'd buy from them again. S. Fields0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Birds Slouch?!By J. ToewsOh my. What to say about this book. Sort of like Dave Barry meets Roger Tory Peterson. A light hearted look at birds and those who watch them. No pictures, but fun and useful none the less. Slinger's brief descriptions in the last half of the book are spot-on, with gems like "meadowlarks slouch", and "Swainson's hawks soar wobbly". Both apt descriptions and useful in the field, too. And he doesn't mince words when describing "dickass birders" and such, either. Alas, I can see myself all too often in his descriptions of birders and their birding antics. A good read.

Combining useful facts with humorous advice, a witty guide to birding covers how to watch birds without leaving home, collecting the proper equipment, identifying birds, and understanding bird behavior. 20, 000 first printing.

From BooklistSlinger's comprehensive introduction to birding (i.e., bird-watching) is primarily for novices but may also inform and amuse experienced birders. Slinger covers background, vocabulary, equipment pros and cons, and North American bird species, their habits, their peculiarities, and good sites for watching them, in impressive depth, and he provides his own special tips on finding and distinguishing between many North American species (oddly, the book has no illustrative pictures, just cartoons). His approach is irreverent, his language often colorful: "Kirtland's Warblers are picky, picky, picky. They demand jack pines, but the jack pines must have grown after a forest fire" and only "somewhere between five and eighteen feet . . . you want to say [to these birds] `Try to be a little more adaptable, you dumb sons of bitches.'" Mike TribbyFrom Publishers WeeklyFiction ReprintsCopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalMost natural history books provide information in a straightforward, expository style. This work is circuitous, humorous, and often profane. (For example, the distraction display, when birds slink away faking a broken wing to try to lead an intruder from their nest, is described as the "crippled bird act, or giving the big bad wolf the old WAZOO.") Because of Slinger's informal (to say the least) style, readers may not realize that his ribald, rambling book actually contains a pretty solid overview of birding, albeit often in rather hit-or-miss fashion. Chapters touch on birders, bird behavior, bird parts, identification, and ten prime birding locations; a miscellaneous chapter called "Deep Background" defies categorization. Anyone who would enjoy reading about nature as it might be related by a standup comedian or glib talk-show host will enjoy this often hilarious book, but for most it would seem an optional purchase.?Henry T. Armistead, Free Lib. of PhiladelphiaCopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.