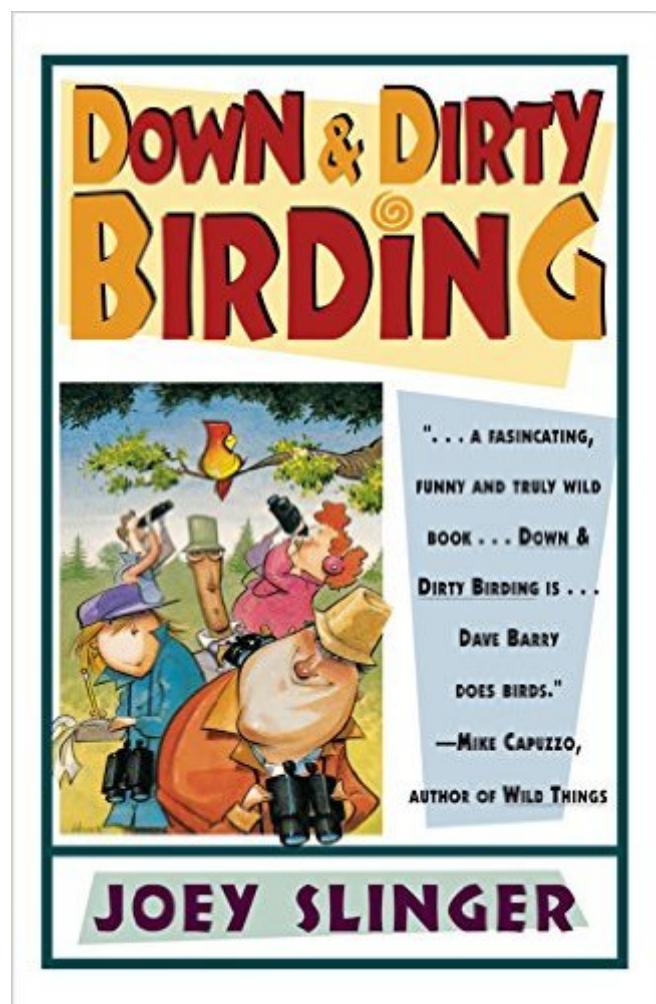


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# Down And Dirty Birding: From The Sublime To The Ridiculous, Here's All The Outrageous But True Stuff You've Ever Wanted To Know About North American Birds



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Touchstone; Original ed. edition (July 3, 1996)

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ (24 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,181,637 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Science & Scientists #1977 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Birds & Birdwatching #7922 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Fauna

## Customer Reviews

With a highly irreverent attitude and a finely-honed sense of humor, Joey Slinger does for birdwatching what "Click & Clack, the Tappett Brothers" do to auto maintenance. In between the laughs is solid information on many subjects of interest to birders, such as choosing and using binoculars, bird physiology, identifying birds by flight patterns, bird behavior, and much more. Early in the book, Slinger does a funny riff on why nowadays the preferred term for those who watch birds is "birder", as opposed to "bird-watcher", which he says "...brings to some minds the image of spinster ladies in tweed underwear bounding through the woods calling 'Halloo! Halloo!' They lacked machismo. When bird-watching -- one hesitates to say, 'When birdwatching comes out of the closet,' but there are so many metaphors around and some have to do double duty -- and moved to the forefront of human activity, it wanted to be known as something that sounded less like 'flower arranger' and more like 'biker.' " You can see this is not your Aunt Matilda's bird book. It is this perspective, however, that leads to what I consider a drawback to the book's over-all appeal. The occasional use of the lesser profanities seems to be Slinger's way of nudging the reader in the ribs and telling us he is not one of the stuffy tweed-underwear wearing Aunt Matildas. Thankfully, these

instances are few. It seems to be fashionable for humor writers today (Dave Barry, who the author is compared to on a front-cover blurb, is an example) to attempt to multi-layer jokes by use of footnotes.

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