



Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding

Scott Weidensaul

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Arriving in the New World, Europeans were awestruck by a continent awash with birds. Today tens of millions of Americans birders have made a once eccentric hobby into something so mainstream it's (almost) cool.

Scott Weidensaul traces the colorful evolution of American birding: from the frontier ornithologists who collected eggs between border skirmishes to the society matrons who organized the first effective conservation movement; from the luminaries with checkered pasts, such as convicted blackmailer Alexander Wilson and the endlessly self-mythologizing John James Audubon, to the awkward schoolteacher Roger Tory Peterson, whose *A Field Guide to the Birds* prompted the explosive growth of modern birding. Spirited and compulsively readable, *Of a Feather* celebrates the passions and achievements of birders throughout American history.

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