



To See Every Bird on Earth: A Father, a Son, and a Lifelong Obsession

Dan Koeppe

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What drives a man to travel to sixty countries and spend a fortune to count birds? And what if that man is your father?

Richard Koepfel's obsession began at age twelve, in Queens, New York, when he first spotted a Brown Thrasher, and jotted the sighting in a notebook. Several decades, one failed marriage, and two sons later, he set out to see every bird on earth, becoming a member of a subculture of competitive bird watchers worldwide all pursuing the same goal. Over twenty-five years, he collected over seven thousand species, becoming one of about ten people ever to do so.

To See Every Bird on Earth explores the thrill of this chase, a crusade at the expense of all else—for the sake of making a check in a notebook. A riveting glimpse into a fascinating subculture, the book traces the love, loss, and reconnection between a father and son, and explains why birds are so critical to the human search for our place in the world. BACKCOVER: "Marvelous. I loved just about everything about this book."
—Simon Winchester, author of *The Professor and the Madman*

"A lovingly told story . . . helps you understand what moves humans to seek escape in seemingly strange other worlds."
—Stefan Fatsis, author of *Word Freak*

"Everyone has his or her addiction, and birdwatching is the drug of choice for the father of author Dan Koepfel, who writes affectionately but honestly about his father's obsession."
—*Audubon Magazine* (editor's choice)

"As a glimpse into human behavior and family relationships, *To See Every Bird on Earth* is a rarity: a book about birding that nonbirders will find just as rewarding."
—*Chicago Tribune*

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