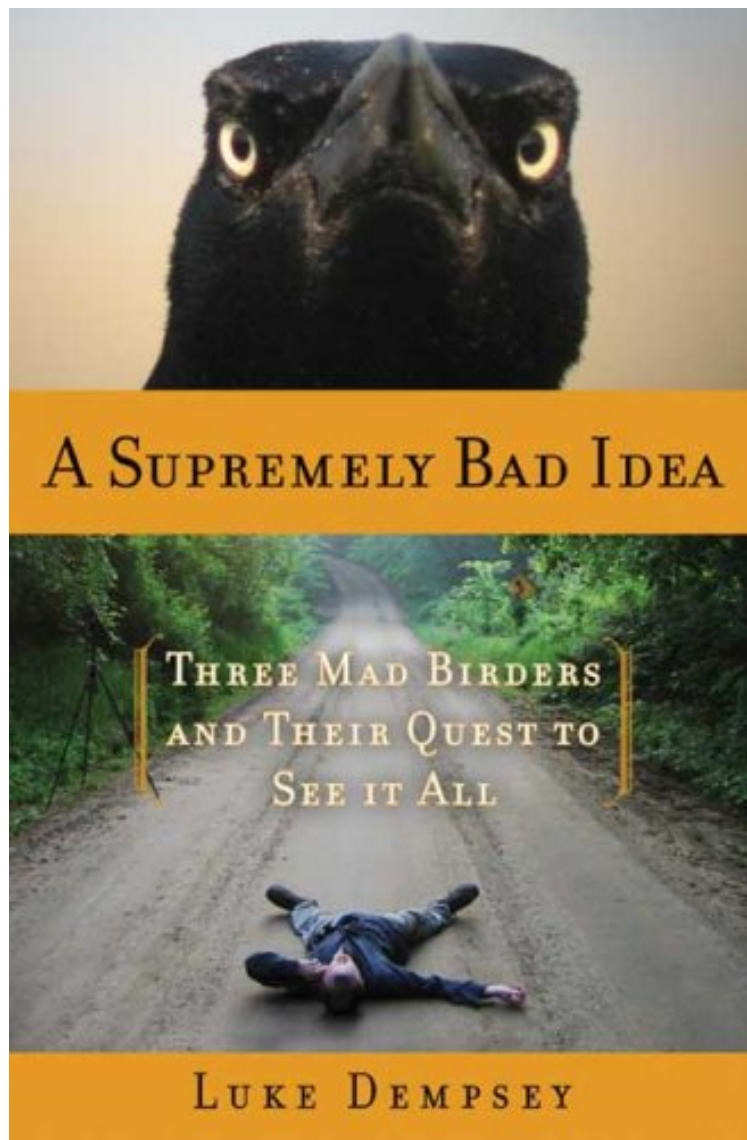


(Ebook free) A Supremely Bad Idea: Three Mad Birders and Their Quest to See It All

A Supremely Bad Idea: Three Mad Birders and Their Quest to See It All

Luke Dempsey

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Luke Dempsey : A Supremely Bad Idea: Three Mad Birders and Their Quest to See It All before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Supremely Bad Idea: Three Mad Birders and Their Quest to See It All:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Obsessed Birders meet On The RoadBy The SkyWriterHere we

have a bird-obsessed group bent on tracking down one of every species of bird on the planet it seems, and the wacky, wonderful, wickedly funny antics these people engage in to do it. Not being a birder myself, I was at a disadvantage reading this short but entertaining book. I do know birders as they call themselves, and I know how obsessive they are when a certain bird pops up on the radar somewhere. In Dempsey's book, this seemingly wacky focus on our feathered friends is shown in full flight as it were, as the newly divorced author and friends Don and Donna Graffiti (their real name, it appears) head off on a whim to track down elusive birds. Reading a bit like Bill Bryson, or Dave Barry, *A Supremely Bad Idea* is a super good and funny read about the micro-culture of birding. Indeed, after reading it I consider myself a full fledged amateur birder-watcher. The book also contains lots of information about 'birding,' people in history who proudly called themselves birders and even the obligatory nod to global climate change and its effects on the bird population. Dempsey never quite explains what took him from casual observer to hobbyist to obsessive birder. It seems the arc of his personal life followed a reverse pattern, so let's hope the birding pursuits didn't ruin his marriage, but that could be the case. The avocation does seem to have that potential. Binoculars are a lot cheaper. Byron Edgington, author of *The Sky Behind Me: A Memoir of Flying Life* of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read By Mary K. Burke Very entertaining book...took me forever to read since I had to look up every bird mentioned that I was not familiar with. I laughed out loud throughout this hilarious tale. Not sure non birders would enjoy but it's a must read for birders who will recognize themselves in these adventures! 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Not such a good read By Joseph R. Lacy I heard Luke Dempsey being interviewed on NPR promoting this book. It was a terrific interview that had me ordering a copy immediately after arriving home that day. The book however was not so good. I wasn't bothered by the interactions with other people, or the foul language as other reviewers were (i did get annoyed with the constantly repeated tomato topic as someone else said though), but his writing just never grabbed me and pulled me in as a good book would. There are some good moments in the book and I wouldn't say don't waste your time reading it, but I would recommend that you try and find a used copy or borrow a copy to read.

It was an epiphany: The moment two friends showed Luke Dempsey a small bird flitting around the bushes of his country garden, he fell madly in love. But did he really want to be a birder? Didn't that mean he'd be forced to eat granola? And wear a man-pouch? Before he knew it, though, he was lost to birding mania. Early mornings in Central Park gave way to weekend mornings wandering around Pennsylvania, which morphed into weeklong trips to Texas, Arizona, Michigan, Florida anywhere the birds were. *A Supremely Bad Idea* is one man's account of an epic journey around America, all in search of the rarest and most beautiful birds the country has to offer. But the birds are only part of it. There are also his crazy companions, Don and Donna Graffiti, who obsess over Dempsey's culinary limitations and watch in horror as an innocent comment in a store in Arizona almost turns into an international incident; as a trip through wild Florida turns into a series of (sometimes poetic) fisticuffs; and as he teeters at the summit of the Rocky Mountains, a displaced Brit falling in love all over again, this time with his adopted country. Both a paean to avian beauty and a memoir of the back roads of America, *A Supremely Bad Idea* is a supremely fun comic romp: an environmentally sound *This Is Spinal Tap* with binoculars.

From Booklist It starts as an innocent experiment, something undertaken just out of curiosity. Then it becomes a hobby and quickly an obsession, until you're skipping work and taking trips across the country to feed your addiction. Birding or bird-watching, as its more commonly known, if this very entertaining book is any indication, a much more exciting, lively, and suspenseful pastime that one might expect. Dempsey's memoir chronicles the newly divorced, newly committed birders cross-country odyssey, in the company of two friends, in search of rare birds. Along the way, they meet a host of interesting folk, including a backyard Noah and a band of smugglers; but what they find, most of all, is peace of mind, a reappraisal of nature, and a better sense of what matters in the larger scheme of things. A gentle, contemplative memoir punctuated by frequent bursts of hilarity and weirdness. At some points, the book reads like a cross between Bill Bryson and Dave Barry (or perhaps Patrick McManus), and that's a very good thing, indeed. -- David Pitt A gentle, contemplative memoir punctuated by frequent bursts of hilarity and weirdness. At some points, the book reads like a cross between Bill Bryson and Dave Barry (or perhaps Patrick McManus), and that's a very good thing, indeed. Booklist Luke Dempsey's narrative, as witty and intelligent as vintage Bill Bryson, moves along at a brisk and sometimes breathless pace. His enthusiastic appreciation of the beauty of the moment makes for compelling reading. Natural History Riotously funny, utterly enthralling. Minneapolis Star Tribune Dempsey succeeds where few authors do. He masterfully shows how a few chance encounters can transform a seemingly normal guy (or gal) into someone obsessed with birds. Dempsey chronicles a series of adventures and misadventures that perhaps better capture what birding means in 2008 than any other book. His success might stem from his ability to seamlessly intertwine history and social book. Wild Bird magazine Luke Dempsey... has written an engaging story about his introduction to this "quietly heroic" society... his enthusiasm for his new friends and new life are winning. New York Times About the Author Luke Dempsey is the editor in chief of Hudson Street Press, a division of Penguin USA. He

lives in New York City. This is his first book.