
Dunlap Thomas R. (EN). America is a nation of ardent, knowledgeable birdwatchers. But how did it become so? And what role did the field guide play in our passion for spotting, watching, and describing birds? In the Field, Among the Feathered tells the history of field guides to birds in America from the Victorian era to the present, relating changes in the guides to shifts in science, the craft of field identification, and new technologies for the mass reproduction of images. Drawing on his experience as a passionate birder and on a wealth of archival research, Thomas Dunlap shows how the twin And what role did the field guide play in our passion for spotting, watching, and describing birds? In the Field, Among the Feathered tells the history of field guides to birds in America from the Victorian era to the present, relating changes in the guides to shifts in science, the craft of field identification, and new technologies for the mass reproduction of images.Â A History of Birders and Their Guides. Thomas R. Dunlap. First book to examine the development of this book genre, relating changes in the guides to shifts in science, the craft knowledge of field identification, and the developing technologies of birding photography. As a birder himself, author brings passion for the subject, inner knowledge of how birders think, and familiarity with guides. And what role did the field guide play in our passion for spotting, watching, and describing birds? In the Field, Among the Feathered tells the history of field guides to birds in America from the Victorian era to the present, relating changes in the guides to shifts in science, the craft of field identification, and new technologies for the mass reproduction of images.Â Putting nature lovers and citizen-activists at the heart of his work, Thomas Dunlap offers an entertaining history of America's long-standing love affair with birds, and with the books that have guided and informed their enthusiasm. Year: 2011. In the Field promises to give us &eacute;the history of field guides to birds in America from the Victorian era to the present&mdash;which brought me up short; was there any such thing as a Victorian field guide? I went to my library and pulled out three books: Coues®s 1896 Key to American Birds, Florence Merriam®s 1892 Birds Through an Opera Glass, and Mathews®s 1902 Field Book of Wild Birds and Their Music, all of which were used to identify birds, but are not what I would call field guides. Dunlap was ahead of me, covering all three!Â The last quarter of In the Field covers the post-Peterson birding world and its major works, giving representative examples of their plates. His account of the (temporary) split in the birding community over persistent pesticides was new to me and fascinating.