



# Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder

*By Kenn Kaufman*

Download now

Read Online ➔

**Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder** By Kenn Kaufman

Now revered as one of North America's top birders, Kenn Kaufman hit the road at age sixteen and spent a year crisscrossing the country to see as many birds as he could, in a birding competition known as a "big year." In what has become a classic among birders, this memoir chronicles the subculture of birding in the 1970s and a teenager's search for his place in the world. In a new afterword, Kaufman looks at the evolution of bird-listing since his own big year.

 [Download Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life o ...pdf](#)

# Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder

*By Kenn Kaufman*

**Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder** By Kenn Kaufman

Now revered as one of North America's top birders, Kenn Kaufman hit the road at age sixteen and spent a year crisscrossing the country to see as many birds as he could, in a birding competition known as a "big year." In what has become a classic among birders, this memoir chronicles the subculture of birding in the 1970s and a teenager's search for his place in the world. In a new afterword, Kaufman looks at the evolution of bird-listing since his own big year.

**Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder** By Kenn Kaufman  
**Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #171224 in Books
- Brand: Houghton Mifflin
- Published on: 2006-04-11
- Released on: 2006-04-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .79" w x 5.50" l, .70 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 336 pages

 [Download Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life o ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online *Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder* By Kenn Kaufman

---

### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

As ornithologist Kenn Kaufman recounts in his lively memoir *Kingbird Highway*, he's managed to do what other birders only dream of doing: take a year and chase winged creatures from one end of the country to another. The year in question was 1973, when Kaufman was 19 years old, and a few dollars and an outstretched thumb could go a long way. Armed with binoculars, notebook, and the blessing of birder patron saint Roger Tory Peterson, Kaufman set out to capture the record for most species spotted in a single year. He came close, closing with 666 species sighted from Alaska to Florida and back again. More important, he racked up a lifetime's worth of adventures on the road. These stories form the heart of his book, a narrative in which spotted redshanks, white-eared hummingbirds, marbled murrelets, and black-capped gnatcatchers are among the chief supporting players.

#### From [Booklist](#)

Kaufman set out on his first solo birding trip when he was 16 years old, on a Greyhound bus, starting in Wichita, Kansas, and ending up in a California jail, for it was illegal for minors to be in that state without adult supervision. So began his quest to set a record: spotting the most North American bird species in a one-year period. Kaufman did just that in 1973, sighting what was then a record 229 species on a grueling hitchhiking trip that took him from Puget Sound to the Florida Keys and the Dry Tortugas in the Gulf of Mexico. Other birding trips followed, from North Dakota to Alaska, from Alaska to Maine, from Maine to Mazatlan in Mexico, and from Arizona to New Jersey. On those arduous trips, too, the author hitchhiked, stopping to work at odd jobs to earn a few dollars. His book is a fascinating memoir of an obsession with birds. *George Cohen*

#### From Kirkus Reviews

You may not have found your loins quivering at the thought of a rose-throated becard, but Kaufman (*Lives of North American Birds*, not reviewed) has, and here he sings sweetly about the birder's ineffable fascination with all things feathered. By the age of 16, Kaufman knew what he wanted from life: to look at birds. So he dropped out of school--with the blessings of his admirably tolerant parents--and hit the road in search of birds. With very little money, he needed ingenuity to survive. He discovered, for instance, that a box of Little Friskies cat food could sustain him for a week. He gradually encountered a subculture of birding aficionados and joined their ranks. In 1973, when he turned 19, he decided to embark on a so-called Big Year: to count as many species as he could manage in a year's time. The book is largely taken up with that quest. There are, of course, plenty of birds here, from the everyday to the extremely rare, but Kaufman also provides--in a winning, plain-spoken prose style--a Baedeker that covers the fine art of hitchhiking, crackling landscapes, and sharp profiles of other birders (as with any subculture, the personalities ranged from the repulsive to the sublime). The listing begins to pale by the end of the year: "Views of birds are measured in milliseconds, in which bird songs are classified instantly, and then ignored, in which no precious moment of daylight could be wasted on aesthetics." Yet one can only marvel at how determined he was (he eventually counted 666 species) and at the purity of his enterprise, and join him in regretting that the compilation of lists has shifted "away from knowledge and planning and experience, toward contacts and hotlines and money." For Kaufman, the pleasure now lies not in lists but in simply watching attentively. He makes us understand the joys of both in this frank, passionate book. (maps and drawings, not seen) -- Copyright ©1997, *Kirkus Associates, LP*. All rights reserved.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Patricia Rhee:**

The book Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. So why must we leave the great thing like a book Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder? Wide variety you have a different opinion about book. But one aim which book can give many info for us. It is absolutely right. Right now, try to closer along with your book. Knowledge or info that you take for that, you could give for each other; you could share all of these. Book Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder has simple shape but you know: it has great and big function for you. You can seem the enormous world by available and read a reserve. So it is very wonderful.

#### **Barbara Rubio:**

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for us. The book Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder seemed to be making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The e-book Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder is not only giving you more new information but also to get your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your e-book. Try to make relationship while using book Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder. You never sense lose out for everything if you read some books.

#### **Hugo Carter:**

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a new book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day every day to reading a reserve. The book Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book possesses high quality.

#### **Emily Boyd:**

A lot of reserve has printed but it is unique. You can get it by world wide web on social media. You can choose the most effective book for you, science, comic, novel, or whatever through searching from it. It is called of book Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder. You can contribute your knowledge by it. Without departing the printed book, it could add your knowledge and make you happier to read. It is most critical that, you must aware about e-book. It can bring you from one location to

other place.

**Download and Read Online Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder By Kenn Kaufman #39DX1I40YOS**

## **Read Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder By Kenn Kaufman for online ebook**

Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder By Kenn Kaufman Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder By Kenn Kaufman books to read online.

### **Online Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder By Kenn Kaufman ebook PDF download**

#### **Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder By Kenn Kaufman Doc**

Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder By Kenn Kaufman Mobipocket

Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder By Kenn Kaufman EPub

39DX1I40YOS: Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder By Kenn Kaufman