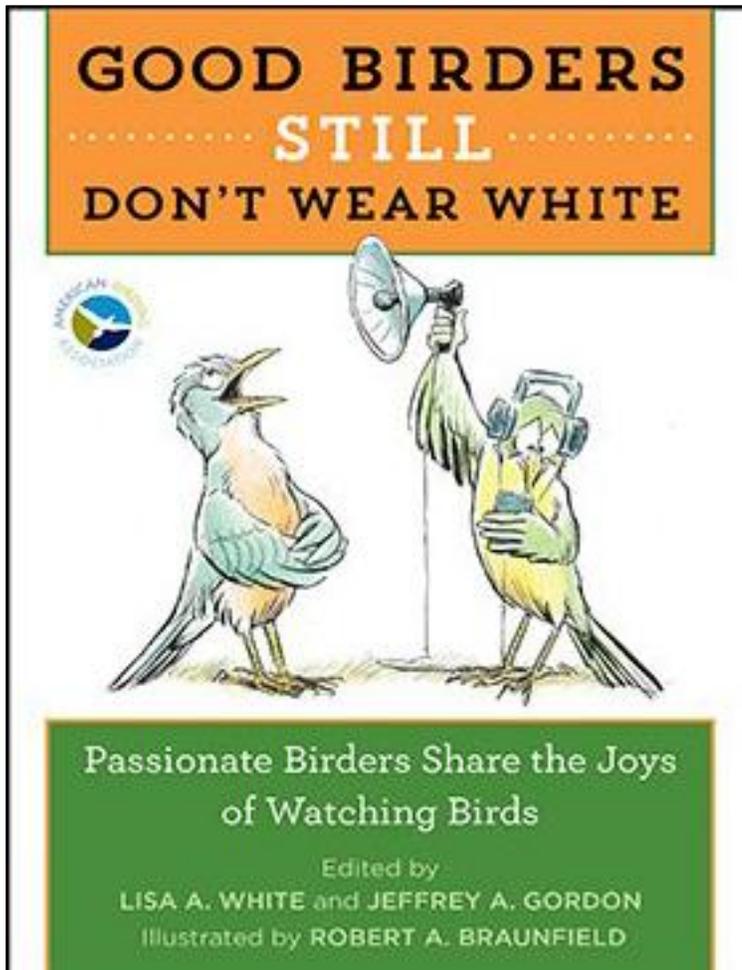


Robert Braunfield



Here are some facts to keep in mind about ***Good Birders Still Don't Wear White: Passionate Birders Share the Joys of Watching Birds***:

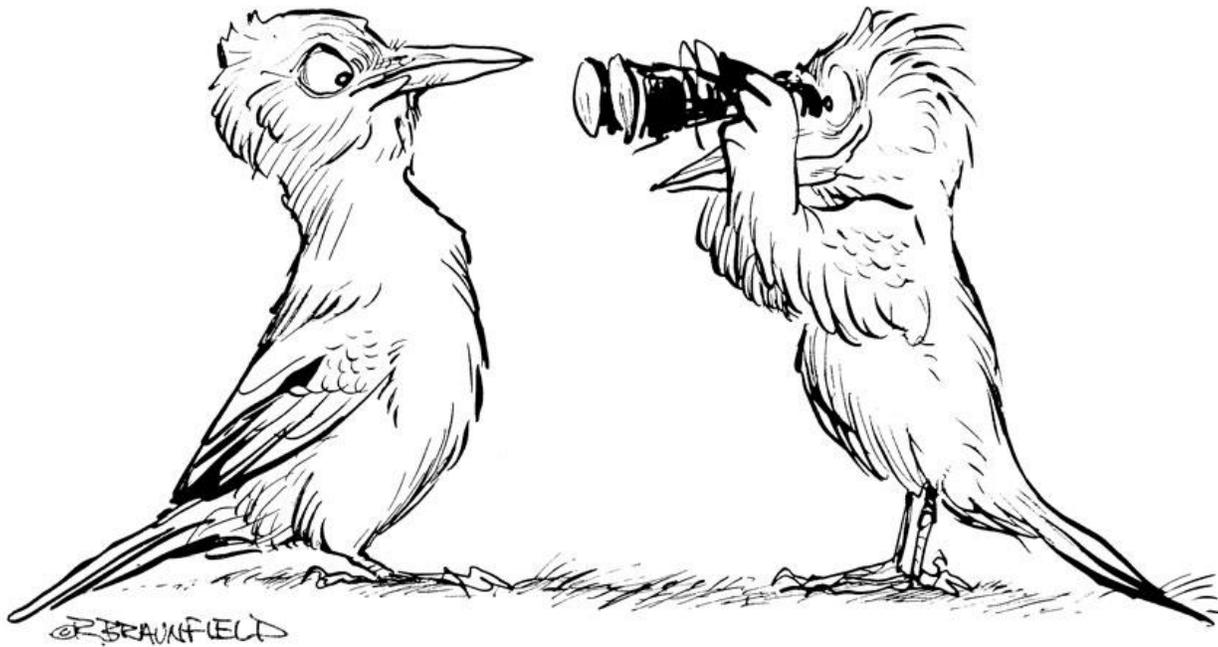
(1) This is not a dress code.

(2) This is a NEW book edited by Lisa A. White and Jeffrey A. Gordon, **illustrated by Robert A. Braunfield**, just published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

(3) It is a sequel to *Good Birders Don't Wear White: 50 Tips From North America's Top Birders*, the popular 2007 collection of essays. How can you tell the difference, besides the additional word in the title? Well, the cover features a different illustration, a different subtitle, an additional editor, the American Birding Association logo, and, most importantly, the title is in an orange color block and the subtitle is in a green color block. In other words—different plumage.

(4) It is a delightful, engaging book. O.k., that's opinion, not fact. It is a fact that the book fulfills the promise of its subtitle. The 37 essays by birders, bird artists, photographers, tour leaders, ornithologists, field guide authors, and other members of the tribe (even bloggers!) explore the diverse joys of birding. The essays are brief, specific, light-hearted with passionate cores. The topics and writing styles may differ, but there is a unifying theme underneath it all—that birding in an inclusive community and that the joys being articulated are available to all. Suggestions

are offered at the end of each chapter—yes, there are still “tips”! Within the framework of sharing the joy, the tips become gifts from friends.



You may already know one of Braunfield's characters, the “Bowerbird” which advertises the store of the name in Old Lyme. His artwork and writings have appeared in many national publications and in exhibits as diverse as the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society of CT, Mystic Marinelife Aquarium, and Bloomingdale's in New York City.

Braunfield teaches bird watching classes, leads birding trips and has been involved in a number of conservation projects and research studies, including his 25-year Bluebird Nestbox Project, which has fledged over 5,000 Eastern Bluebirds in the Lyme/ East Haddam area, and his 20-year Breeding Bird Survey, conducted on 1,000 acres of property owned by The Nature Conservancy in East Haddam where he lived for 23 years.

Braunfield's bird sculptures in wood have won numerous awards and have been exhibited nationally. His varied interests have led him to judging the Connecticut finals of National History Day Competition, serving as Baked Goods judge at the Hamburg Fair, floor-managing Vintage Clothing and Textile Auctions in New York City, and even appearing as an extra on the TV show *Saturday Night Live*! His latest project is working on artwork for the sequel to a book he illustrated a few years ago, *Good Birders Don't Wear White*, to be published by Houghton Mifflin this year.