

# Review

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**Bill Oddie's Little Black Bird Book.** By **Bill Oddie.** Eyre Methuen, London, 1980. 150 pages; a few black-and-white plates and line-drawings. £4.95.

This is the funniest book about birdwatching and birdwatchers that I have ever read. It has no pretensions to be great literature, but is almost un-put-down-able once you climb into its irreverant mood (preferably, read it with or to a fellow birdwatcher: what *you* don't find funny, *he* will, and you will—in consequence—waste twice as much time that ought to be spent actually looking at birds). To give just one example: Bill Oddie asks whether you are a 'twitcher', a 'birder' or a 'dude'. To find out, 'place the following in order of importance: (a) Food (b) World peace (c) a Lanceolated Warbler'.

Whichever you are, you should enjoy this look at the twitching and birdwatching scene. It isn't tongue-in-cheek, it is blatantly tongue-sticking-right-out.

J. T. R. SHARROCK