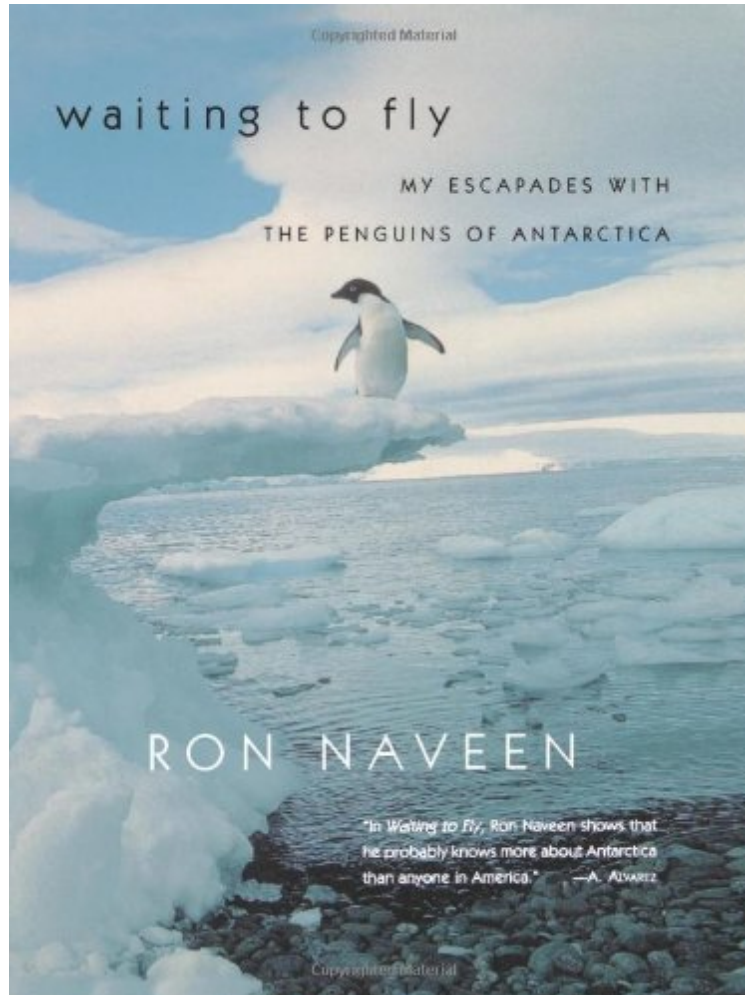


(Read now) Waiting to Fly: My Escapades With The Penguins Of Antarctica

Waiting to Fly: My Escapades With The Penguins Of Antarctica

Ron Naveen

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Ron Naveen : Waiting to Fly: My Escapades With The Penguins Of Antarctica before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Waiting to Fly: My Escapades With The Penguins Of Antarctica:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Adlies, And Chinstraps, And Gentoos, Oh My! By Robert I. Hedges Ron Naveen has an amazing amount of experience working with brushtail penguins (adlie, gentoo, and chinstrap) in Antarctica, and this book is his account of his years of work there. Like Naveen, I am a biologist by education (though I am a mammalogist, not an ornithologist), and have a deep appreciation for fieldwork with these magnificent animals. Naveen is definitely an expert in his field, and I recommend this book to anyone serious about understand penguin habitation, reproduction, and lifestyle, but not as much to the casual reader, who may find it a bit detail-oriented. The book largely follows one season's worth of research with highlights from other experiences

intermingled within the various chapters. The book is quite detailed, to the degree, for instance, that he analyzes what penguins are eating by the color of their guano. In fact penguin guano is a key element of this book, and something of a recurring theme. This brings me to my major issue with the book. While the information is generally excellent and is certainly authoritative, I wavered on a three versus four star review because of the repetition and sometimes muddled organization in the book. Much of the subject matter is repeatedly reinforced to the point of monotony (the guano discussions are excellent examples). In a book on algebra, for instance, repetition is important for learning and retention of complex new ideas, while it is probably unnecessary to repeatedly cover how penguin guano smells. (We get it.) Having said that, the book does reveal a lot about the lives of these fascinating birds, and I am glad that I read it. I decided on a four star review because of the occasionally sublime passages in the book, my favorite of which involves a gentoo chick in the Aitcho Islands hopping in Naveen's lap for a prolonged rest. While the book does have some drawbacks, on balance I think it's a worthwhile read, especially for people interested in penguins or Antarctica.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Glad I read it but it is a little dullBy Shirley AllenGlad I read it but it is a little dull. It imparts a lot of information about penguins and that is what it intended to do.4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A must for serious penguin lovers!By B. StoopFrom the first page, Naveen's love of the three brush tailed species of penguins comes through. Follow his account of years of working with chinstrap, adalaide and gentoo penguins in the Antarctic peninsula. Learn details about their habits and habitats as you read his entertaining account of his work. For the person who wants to know more than superficial penguin books tell you.

A tour de force of nature writing, Ron Naveen's *Waiting to Fly* captures the spirit of the gentle and charming creatures called penguins while also beautifully rendering the frozen, windswept landscapes through his magical prose. In *Waiting to Fly*, Naveen weaves together the stories of his own experiences as a field scientist with the adventures of earlier explorers who have studied these fascinating flightless birds. He recounts tales of daring voyages in the Antarctic's dangerous seas and of the men who had to survive for months in this treacherous terrain. These stories of humans struggling to overcome the elements are paralleled with the lives of the very humanlike penguins. Naveen fell in love with penguins sixteen years ago, and ever since they have held a strong place in his mind--whether he is counting their numbers on the icy shores of the seventh continent or studying their behavior as they go through their hectic and productive lives. We see that their natural and healthy lives, unfettered by the clamor and clutter of our workaholic existence, can teach us much about ourselves. Penguins don't spend time reasoning, planning, pondering, or worrying. They're very, very busy, with lots of work to do and little time to do it. The penguins in this delightful and informative book emerge as distinctly resourceful and beguiling personalities. While penguins amuse and intrigue us, their comically deceptive exterior belies the reality that they may have mastered survival a bit better than we have, and watching them may change our relationship with the earth--and with each other.

.com Ron Naveen loves penguins more than anything. He has spent season after season studying chinstrap, gentoo, and Adlie penguins in their icy home ranges. Sixteen years huddled at penguin-eye level, avoiding guano blasts, vicious pecks to his groin, and falling to his death off slippery rocks--not to mention exposure. Yet this man feels happier among his beloved penguins than in the temperate north, the nominal home of his own species. He writes: To starboard, I pass an undulating line of chinstraps descending to the beach. The moment tingles, weirdly. I think of all the time I've spent doing something other than chinstraps. How could I have waited so long? *Waiting to Fly* is a meditative, sweeping look at these misunderstood birds and their flightless, elegant lives. Naveen has terrific field biology tales, and he tells them with grace, making you understand how he might want to freeze his own tail feathers communing with short, goofy, tuxedo-wearing avians. We can learn from the penguins, he says, lessons about health, priorities, and a good work ethic. They may actually have mastered the art of life better than humans. --Therese LittletonFrom Publishers WeeklyLying between latitudes 60 and 70 South, the South Shetland Islands and the northern part of the Antarctic Peninsula are a "banana belt" for three species of penguin?chinstrap, Adelie and gentoo. Naveen (*Wild Ice*) is the project director of the Antarctica Site Inventory, which studies environmental protection. He spends austral summers counting these penguins and observing their behavior. Their lives, he reports in this captivating book, revolve around food, sex, weather and turf. To travel between field sites and research stations, teams rely on expedition ships (with tourists) and the British Navy icebreaker *Endurance*, which supplies helicopters. Naveen deftly weaves his experience as field scientist and expedition leader with tales of earlier explorers, such as the two young poseur-adventurers, Thomas Bagshawe, 19, and Charles Lester, 23, who in the 1920s spent a year on the icy continent and produced the first life history of chinstraps and gentoos. But the real stars here are the penguins themselves. Naveen is transparently enamored of them, and his descriptions of their habits, their play, their love of little stones form the liveliest parts of his charming, if occasionally meandering, chronicle. 16 pages of color photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalNaveen (*Wild Ice: Antarctic Journeys*, Smithsonian, 1990) is an authority on seabirds as well as director of the Antarctic Site Inventory. He is also a superb writer, as he proves with this absorbing story of personal adventures and penguin research. In addition, his book is a ranking Antarctic narrative helping readers to understand the importance of this vast, vulnerable, and rapidly

changing region, where there is now an ozone hole larger than the United States and a loose iceberg bigger than Delaware. What happens here, aside from being inherently wondrous and interesting, also affects most of the rest of the world, through changes in sea level and global climate and probably in ways yet to be understood. Naveen's compelling stories reflect on such phenomena. His appealing penguins are ideal study subjects, barometers of the health of the seas, because they are abundant, tame, live in colonies, and return to the same places each year. Highly recommended. ?Henry T. Armistead, Free Lib. of Philadelphia Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.