

the ball club and the “friendly confines” of Wrigley Field, with its “bleacher bums,” old-fashioned scoreboard, and ivy-covered walls (one fan was even inspired to build a sizable replica in his own neighborhood). Also contributing their thoughts are assorted Cubs legends, including Ernie Banks, Billy Williams, and the late Ron Santo. Other topics include the rivalry with the Chicago

White Sox, an infamous 1945 “curse” supposedly put on the team by a goat, and a blown lead in 1969 that derailed hopes for a series bid. Extras include a director’s commentary, a look at the 1908 championship lineup, footage of the dedication of a statue of Ernie Banks, and a profile of relief pitcher Kerry Wood. An entertaining portrait of a legendary sports love affair, this is recom-

mended for those who don’t already own *We Believe*. Aud: P. (S. Rees)

THE ARTS

Ben Bailey: Road Rage...and Accidental Ornithology ★★

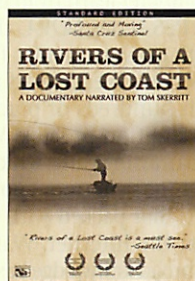
(2010) 74 min. DVD: \$19.98. eOne Entertainment (avail. from most distributors). ISBN: 1-4172-3469-5.

Ben Bailey is the host of the cable TV game show *Cash Cab*, in which passengers in the backseat of a New York City hack answer trivia questions during their rides, racking up prize money—or not—with their responses. Bailey has been a standup comic for the better part of two decades, and here he offers a one-hour set of so-so jokes and routines. A number of gags riff on *Cash Cab*, including the concluding bit about how Bailey vents his road rage while surrounded by a TV production crew and rent-a-cops. Bailey also bemoans how auto-fill took all the fun out of Google, making the search engine the equivalent of an annoying friend who tries to finish all your sentences. The comic’s lengthy observations about bird nomenclature segue into a scattershot general discussion of catchphrases and expressions (“kill two birds with one stone,” “beaten

Rivers of a Lost Coast ★★★1/2

(2009) 86 min. DVD: \$24.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors).

Dewy with nostalgia, this elegiac documentary opens with a look at northern California fly fishing beginning in the early 20th century, when anglers flocked to near-virgin destinations such as the Russian and Eel rivers, fecund with steelhead, Chinook salmon, and other prime game fish. Later, fanatical devotees—armed with post-WWII rod-and-reel innovations—refined the West Coast pastime into a rich subculture that was ultimately dominated by two rival champions: the larger-than-life Bill Schaadt (whose drawings help illustrate the narrative) and the more reserved Ted Lindner. As the title suggests, this is a bygone era—rapacious logging, climate change, dam projects, Sonoma Valley vineyard irrigation, and greedy offshore harvests have destroyed the steelhead and Chinook (and the sportsmen never considered “conservation” or catch-and-release until it was too late). Narrated by actor Tom Skerritt, *Rivers of a Lost Coast* artfully combines vintage footage and stills, archival headlines, and interviews with legendary aficionados. DVD extras include deleted scenes, bonus footage, and a collection of Schaadt’s sketches. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)

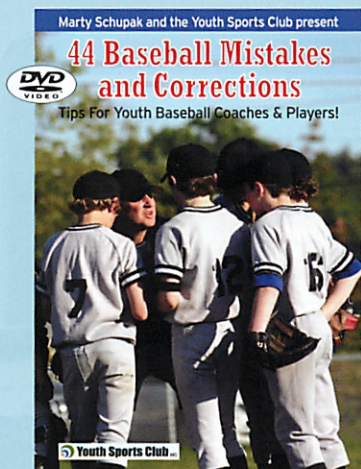


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