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Author(s)	Jay Cocks
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The Birds (1963)

It's Hitchcock's definitive comedy. Think of it that way, as a great, cosmic practical joke, full of ironic dread. The director has always set great store by **The Trouble with Harry**, but **The Birds** abounds in just the kind of morbid whimsy that, in **Harry**, turns coy. **The Birds** was surely among his most formidable technical challenges, and Hitchcock rose to it with a master's unflustered ease. No film of his is quite so disorienting, either: the bird attacks are all the more menacing because Hitchcock regards them with such bemused detachment. I still remember with pleasure the first shock at the audacity and perfection of the final scene.

— Cocks