***The Birds***

Length: 120 minutes Category: Suspense Release Date: 1963

Director: Alfred Hitchcock

Stars: Tippi Hedren and Rod Taylor

**Story Line:**

Melanie Daniels is the modern rich socialite, part of the jet-set who always gets what she wants. When lawyer Mitch Brenner sees her in a pet shop, he plays something of a practical joke on her, and she decides to return the favor. She drives about an hour north of San Francisco to Bodega Bay, where Mitch spends the weekends with his mother Lydia and younger sister Cathy. Soon after her arrival, however, the birds in the area begin to act strangely. A seagull attacks Melanie as she is crossing the bay in a small boat, and then, Lydia finds her neighbor dead, obviously the victim of a bird attack. Soon, birds in the hundreds and thousands are attacking anyone they find out of doors. There is no explanation as to why this might be happening, and as the birds continue their vicious attacks, survival becomes the priority.

**Trivia:**

Alfred J. Hitchcock Productions copyrighted The Birds twice: on March 28, 1963 with a running time of 119 minutes and April 20, 1963 with a running time of 120 minutes.

Alfred Hitchcock saw Tippi Hedren in a 1962 commercial aired during the *Today* show and put her under contract. In the commercial for a diet drink, she is seen walking down a street and a man whistles at her slim, attractive figure, and she turns her head with an acknowledging smile. In the opening scene of the film, the same thing happens as she walks toward the bird shop. This was an inside joke by Hitchcock.

The scene where Tippi Hedren is ravaged by birds near the end of the movie took a week to shoot. The birds were attached to her clothes by long nylon threads so they could not get away.

In May 2001, the son of The Birds novelist Daphne Du Maurier reported that he and his wife were being terrorized by seagulls nesting outside their cottage in Cornwall, England.

**Goofs:**

Continuity: While chatting, Annie leans against Melanie's car after they have met. Melanie thanks Annie and speeds off. In the next shot and while Melanie has clearly left, Annie seems to have left her prop and stands on her feet again. Also the car sound can be heard in the distance.

When Melanie enters Bodega Bay School for the first time, we can hear the child singing even when they turn around to see Melanie, and are clearly not moving their lips.

While Melanie is driving to Bodega Bay with the love birds, she is seen driving very fast screeching around every corner, yet the road is gravel until she arrives within the town limits.

After two birds break the glass on the phone booth, it appears that the isn't shattered when Melanie is grabbed out of it.