

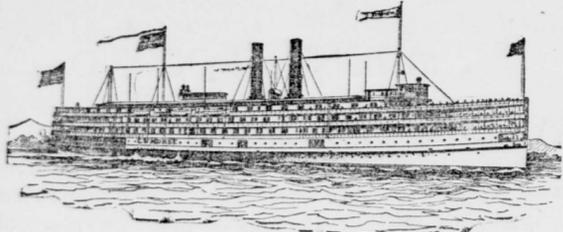
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PARRAKEET AND MONKEY.

'Similarities of Bird and Animal in Teasing and Acrobatic Contests.

By C. William Beebe, Curator of Ornithology, New-York Zoological Society.

The finding of real or fancied analogies between very dissimilar creatures is a favorite pastime with some natural history writers, and the suggestion of these superficial resemblances has in many instances been preserved in the common name by which the animal is known. Thus we have seacons and starfish, night-hawks and dragonflies, which creatures have nothing in common with cows, fish, hawks and flies, respectively.

One analogy, however, is remarkable, namely, the resemblance between parrots and monkeys. This, of course, has its foundation in the intellectual characteristics, the differences in appearance and structure being vast. It is, indeed, this very physical likeness which accentuates the mental correlation. Without straining a point we may carry the analogy further, and apply compare the larger parrots with the more staid apes, while the parakeets reflect the characteristics of the smaller simians.

Some fifteen parakeets share a small cage in the hutch of the New-York Zoological Park. To watch their little world half an hour is to give one much to laugh at and much to muse over, and leaves one with few human emotions which deserve that exclusive qualification.

The enjoyment taken in teasing is one of the first characteristics we will notice, and soon it is apparent that two individuals, long tailed green parakeets, are most persistent in amusing themselves at the expense of the other birds. Watch them, now, as they stand on the floor of the cage with their beaks close together. Their little knowing eyes roll upward toward a gorgeous rosehill parakeet, preening itself on a perch above them. They separate and climb, if not hand over hand, at least bill over feet, up the wire on opposite sides, and, apparently by the merest accident, both reach the aforesaid perch and begin to sidle carefully along it. When the rosehill stops his preening they pretend utter disinterest, when their bills on the perch beside them, pick an imaginary piece of dirt from one foot! As they approach their victim their little feet move faster, until with a rush one reaches him, and, raising wings and feathers, pretends a fierce attack. Well he knows he is no match for the bigger bird, and the rosehill indignantly drives him back. His partner in crime is now at hand, and from the opposite side stretches out a tiny beak, seizes the larger bird's wing and pulls it violently. The rosehill turns on longtail No. 2 and forces him into a frantic gallop along the perch. Attacked first on one side, then on the other, rosehill at last gives it up and flies to a higher twig. Then the two practical jokers meet and touch tongues, and pour forth a series of chuckles which are nothing if not hilarious.

This pair of birds have invented another amusement. After feeding time, when several of the inmates of this little cage are dozing on the branches of a small sapling, one of our long tailed green friends will stily climb to a point where he can just reach the tip of the longest branch. Backing steadily downward, he draws the tip with him until his strength and weight fail, and then, giving a last quick jerk, he lets the branch fly back, to the sudden discomfiture of all the perching individuals and the intense joy of himself and his mate.

Another sport which this extremely playful pair of parakeets have taught themselves is wrestling. This, far from being at the expense of some other bird, is an amusement which all enjoy, and every parakeet in the cage will watch the bouts intently as long as they are indulged in. The tournament is strictly applicable, as we shall see. The contestants walk or run around each other in a circle, now and then making a false move or feint. Sometimes they will interhook their beaks and a tug of war results, but more generally one of the birds will raise its foot and grasp its opponent's wing or leg. Instantly there ensues a rough and tumble mêlée. The two little birds roll over and over, and twist around head downward, or any way, and altogether behave in anything but a birdlike manner. After a minute or two they separate, shake their ruffled feathers into place, and are ready for another turn. It is a most remarkable performance for birds, but again and again, at all times of the day, it may be witnessed.

Parakeets take as much pleasure and interest in preening and arranging one another's plumage as do monkeys in their untiring but less worthy attentions to each other's fur. The greeting of parakeets is either a tongue touch or a bowing of the head of one and a friendly scratch from the second bird as they pass each other.

The long tail feathers of most parakeets afford as irresistible an opportunity for practical joking as the more vital appendages of monkeys. I have seen a parakeet sleeping soundly, its tail reaching within eight or ten inches of the floor, while beneath three festive individuals were trying their best to reach and nip its tip. There seemed to be an understanding that wings were not to be used, as giving undue advantage, perhaps. Each bird in turn would crouch and leap upward, then retire to one side and watch the effort of the next one.

In an acrobatic contest, even monkeys would be left far behind by parakeets. They can execute giant swings slowly, showing the comparatively tremendous strength of the four tiny toes. A curious unbirdlike effect is produced by the singular way in which parakeets instantly grasp any surface against which they fly.

A little bird will be feeding quietly from his feed pan, and without warning will fly directly upward and cling with bill and feet to the overhead wire mesh. Imagine a robin reversing itself in that way! More amusing than the awkward waddle of goose or swan, or the crippled gait of a loon, is the rapid trot, trot, of a parakeet's feet. When one of these birds runs rapidly, not only does he too in, but the toes fairly overlap, and the odd, jerking motion recalls most vividly the mechanical toys of street vendors. In expressing rage, a parakeet and a monkey have much in common. Both dance up and down, shrieking as loudly as possible.

Parakeets have a remarkably varied vocabulary, but the majority of their notes are harsh and grating to the ear. The tiny, undulating grass parakeets, smaller than sparrows, have, on the contrary, a low sweet warble, which sounds strangely proceeding from a member of the parrot family. These little birds are beautiful in color, being of a delicate pea green beneath, with wavy, undulating lines of black and yellow on the head and back, from which the name of the bird is derived. The male bird has a pretty habit, before feeding time, of running and flying to his mate and whispering a few warbling notes to her. He then flies to the side nearest the place where the keeper with his feed pans will approach, and bites the wires angrily.

Parrots and parakeets impress optically as being more intelligent than other birds, because of the movements of both upper and lower mandibles, and the more conspicuous motions of the eyes, giving them more expression than other birds possess, although the latter may be equally intelligent.

THE MASSEPEQUA HOTEL.

Amid the healthful, attractive and satisfying surroundings of the South Shore of Long Island, the Massepequa Hotel offers a delightful place for resort visitors. Within a short distance of this city by the well equipped and frequent trains of the Long Island Railroad no nearby resort is more accessible or possesses more charms for those desirous of the enjoyment of the seaside. The house is spacious, of the most modern and improved construction, is completely ventilated and possesses all the improvements that the best modern skill has devised. The guests have extended views of the Atlantic and of Great South Bay from the extensive piazzas and the surf promenade, where much enjoyment can be taken, especially after the sun has departed to illuminate the other half of the globe. The region in which Massepequa is situated has the finest possible drives, and the trips to adjacent towns and villages along the South Road or to the interior and northern part of the island are of the best in point of attractiveness. One most delightful trip is to Lake Ronkonkoma, that sparkling sheet of water the source of whose supply is unknown, as well as the rise and fall which extends for certain marked periods. The water enjoyments at the Massepequa Hotel are also unsurpassed. For all sorts of outdoor and athletic sports careful provision is made, and there is an excellent orchestra for the entertainment of the 300 guests for whom the hotel is fitted to care. An especial feature is the fine golf course where the devotees of the game and spectators can enjoy it amid the most attractive surroundings.

AT THE GARDEN CITY HOTEL.
Garden City, Long Island, June 11 (Special).—Every cottage is now taken, with two or three exceptions, at this attractive cathedral town, with its miles of beautiful roads for equestrianism and automobileing, and at the Garden City Hotel the same conditions of many arriving guests exist. The season has started off with a large patronage at the hotel, and, owing to its proximity to New York and its many advantages, society and business people spend much of their time here in the evenings, coming out to Garden City in automobiles and reaching the pretty town on the Hempstead plains almost as soon as if they had gone by steam car.

Golfing, polo, tennis, equestrianism, and last, but by no means least, automobileing, are the principal forms of amusement for the sojourners here, many of whom will remain until late in the autumn. Manhattan arrivals at Garden City Hotel include Mr. and Mrs. Egerton L. Winthrop, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Livingston, Mr. and Mrs. Foster Milliken, Miss Frances H. De Peyster, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Mack, C. H. Chisolm, Mrs. A. L. Stevenson, H. H. Dureya, Charles C. Singer, Mrs. Robert Dunlap, William A. Dunlap, Gardner Abbott, J. P. Knapp, W. S. Stafford, E. K. Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Taft, Dr. R. H. Wilcox, E. Porter Fraker, Dr. and Mrs. Allen W. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Harbeck, Miss Helen H. Harbeck, Miss Mildred Harbeck, C. J. Harbeck, Mr. and Mrs. Adams Batchelder, H. De Peyster, Mr. and Mrs. Katherine Townsend, Marian G. Townsend, Oswald Jackson, W. K. Fowler, A. R. Shattuck, W. S. Wyckoff, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Walker, W. B. Ayerell and Mrs. M. A. Brown.

Brooklyn arrivals—Judge and Mrs. James C. Church, Mr. and Mrs. N. Dykeman, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Corlier, Miss Alice Corlier, A. J. Corlier, J. T. Hillard, Mrs. P. Hillard, Mr. and Mrs. A. Tracy Sheffield, Kyle Sheffield, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Low, Seth Low, 3d, Miss M. W. Low, Dr. W. B. Brinsmeade and Jay P. Carlisle.

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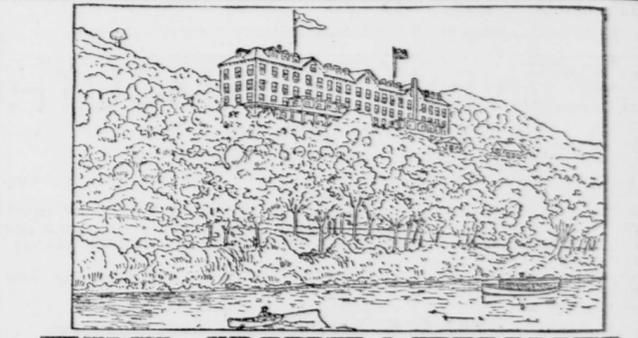
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