

By THEODORE ROOSEVELT

English Singing Birds

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Like most Americans interested in birds and books I know a good deal about English birds as they appear in books. I know the lark of Shakespeare and Shelley and the Ettrick Shepherd; I know the nightingale of Milton and Keats; I know Wordsworth's cuckoo; I know mavis and merle singing in the merry green wood of the old ballads; I know Jenny Wren and Cock Robin of the nursery books. Therefore I have always much desired to hear the birds in real life; and the opportunity offered last June. As I could snatch but a few hours from a very exacting round of pleasures and duties, it was necessary for me to be with some companion who could identify both song and singer. In Sir Edward Grey, a keen lover of outdoor life in all its phases, and a delightful companion, who knows the songs and ways of English birds as very few do know them, I found the best possible guide.

We left London on the morning of June 9, 24 hours before I sailed from Southampton. Getting off the train at Basingstoke, we drove to the pretty, smiling valley of the Itchen. Here we tramped for three or four hours, then again drove, this time to the edge of the New Forest, where we first took tea at an inn, and then tramped through the forest to an inn on the other side, at Brockenhurst. At the conclusion of our walk my companion made a list of the birds we had seen, putting an asterisk opposite those which we had heard sing. There were 41 of the former and 23 of the latter, as follows:

*Thrush, *Blackbird, *Lark, *Yellow Hammer, *Robin, *Wren, *Golden Crested Wren, *Goldfinch, *Greenfinch, *Pied Wagtail, *Sparrow, *Duncock (Hedger Accentor), *Mistle Thrush, *Starling, *Blackcap, *Blackbird, *Garden Warbler, *Willow Warbler, *Chiff Chaff, *Wood Warbler, *Tree Creeper, *Red Bunting, *Sedge Warbler, *Coot, *Water Hen, *Little Grebe (Dabchick), *Tufted Duck, *Wood Pigeon, *Stock Dove, *Turtle Dove, *Pewee, *Tit (Cock Tit), *Cuckoo, *Nightingale, *Swallow, *Martin, *Swift, *Pheasant, *Partridge.

The bird that most impressed me on my walk was the blackbird. I had already heard nightingales in abundance near Lake Como, and had also listened to larks, but I had never heard either the blackbird, the song thrush, or the black cap warbler; and while I knew all three were good singers, I did not know what really beautiful singers they were. Blackbirds were very abundant, and they played a prominent part in the chorus which we heard throughout the day on every hand, though perhaps loudest the following morning at dawn. In its habits and manners, the blackbird strikingly resembles our American robin, and indeed looks exactly like a robin, with a yellow bill and coal-black plumage. It hops everywhere over the lawn, just as our robin does, and it lives in nests in the gardens in the same fashion. Its song has a general resemblance to that of our robin, but many of the notes are far more musical, more like those of our wood thrush. Indeed there were individuals among those we heard certain of whose notes seemed to me almost to equal in point of melody the chiming of the wood thrush; and the highest possible praise for any song bird is to liken its song to that of the wood thrush or the blackbird. I certainly do not think that the blackbird has received full justice in the books. I knew that it was a singer, but I really had no idea how fine a singer he was. I suppose one of his troubles has been his name, just as with our own cat bird. When he appears in the ballads as the merle, bracketed with his cousin, the mavis, the song thrush, it is far easier to recognize him as the master singer that he is. It is a fine thing for England to have such an asset of the countryside, a bird so common, so much in evidence, so fearless, and such a really beautiful singer.

The most musical singer we heard was the black cap warbler. To my ear its song seemed more musical than that of the nightingale. It was astonishingly powerful for so small a bird; in volume and continuity it does not come up to the songs of the thrushes and of certain other birds, but in quality, as an isolated bit of melody, it can hardly be surpassed. Among the minor singers the robin was noticeable. We all know this pretty little bird from the books, and I was prepared to find him as friendly and attractive as he proved to be, but I had not realized how well he sang.

I sent the companion of my English walk John Burroughs' "Birds and Poets." John Burroughs' life work is beginning to have its full effect in many different lines. When he first wrote there were few men of letters in our country who knew nature at first hand. Now there are many who delight in our birds, who know their songs, who keenly love all that belongs to out-of-doors life. For instance, Madison Cawein and Ernest McGaffey have for a number of years written of our woods and fields, of the birds and the flowers, as only those can write who join to love of nature the gift of observation and the gift of description. Mr. Cawein is a Kentuckian; and another Kentuckian, Miss Julia Stockton Dinwiddie, in the little volume of poems which she has just published, includes many which describe with beauty and charm the sights and sounds so dear to all of us who know American country life. Miss Dinwiddie knows Kentucky, and the gulf coast of Louisiana, and the great plains of North Dakota; and she knows also the regions that lie outside of what can be seen with material vision. For years in our family we have had some of her poems in the scrap book out from newspapers when we knew nothing about her except the initials signed in the verses. Only one who sees with the eyes of the spirit as well as with the eyes of the body could have written the "Threnody," curiously attractive in its simplicity and pathos, with which the little book opens. It contains many poems that make a similar appeal. The writer knows bluebird and robin, redbird and field lark and whippoorwill, just as she knows southern rivers and western plains; she knows rushing winds and running waters and the sights and sounds of lonely places; and moreover, she knows and almost tells those hidden things of the heart which never find complete utterance.

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No Cause for Alarm.
"I have decided," said the theatrical manager, "to give you a trial, Miss Arlington. Please be ready to begin rehearsing Monday afternoon."

"Thank you so much. But before we go any further I must inform you that I shall positively refuse to wear tight shoes or a gown that is cut low in the neck."

"Oh, that's all right. In the part that I'm going to give you, you will merely have to stand behind a shed and help to scream when the cyclone strikes town."

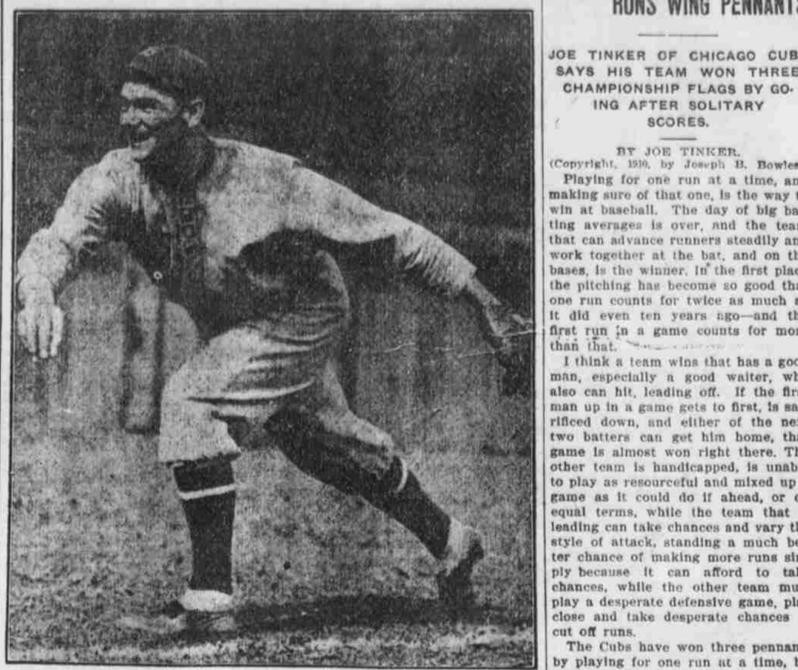
Rather Suggestive.
Advance Agent (minstrel show)—I hope you are giving me the facts about the house we will draw. You don't string actors out here do you?
Bad Bill (Wolf Valley)—Well, pard, that just depends on the acting.

Would Go the Limit.
"Why don't you perfect a mackinaw with a handle, so that people could carry it conveniently?"
"It would be a waste of time," answered the horticultural wizard. "There's a man's name on it with wheels."

Twice as Much.
"So you want to sell your store. What's the matter with it?"
"Nothing is the matter with it. Look here, I bought this store a year ago. It was doing absolutely no business at all. In the first six months its business has doubled!"

A Chronic Victim.
"Ever buy any false stocks?"
"All kinds, and I have also gone into more than a hundred various schemes. I'd buy a half interest in a railroad if I saw a prospect approached."

ONE OF BROOKLYN'S BRIGHTEST STARS PLAYING FOR SINGLE RUNS WING PENNANTS



Left Fielder Wheat.

When Manager "Bill" Dahlen commenced to "reconstruct" the Brooklyn team at the beginning of the season, about the first player he secured was outfielder Wheat from the Mobile team of the Southern League. Wheat has certainly made good. He is near the top of the list of the National League sluggers and his fielding has been equally as good.

The classification legislation in the national association national agreement will be revised at the annual meeting of that organization in Chicago next fall. The system may not undergo radical change, but there will be modifications that will do away with abuses and injustices that have arisen in the course of the development of the game, to individual minor leagues in all sections of the country. The major leagues are interested in the matter, because the draft price of the player is determined by the rank of the minor league of which the club to which he belongs is a member at the time of his selection, but the parties of the first part in the agreement will have no part in the new grouping of the minor leagues. This power is delegated to the minors by section 5 of Article 6 of the national agreement, which reads as follows:

The National association shall have the classification of its leagues and the adoption of a salary for its clubs according to such classification and it agrees to withdraw protection from any league which allows any of its clubs to exceed the salary limit prescribed for leagues of its classification.

The succeeding section fixes the price for selecting a Class A player by a major club at \$1,000; of a Class B player at \$750; of a Class C player at \$500, and of a player "from a club of lower class," at \$300. The quoted words were manifestly employed in expectation of the creation of classes below D and are assuredly sufficiently elastic to include the rest of the letters of the alphabet. However, it is apparent that, although the National association has sole control of the grading of its leagues in rank, three classes—A, B and C—must be retained in order that the drafting rights of the major leagues under Section 8, Article 6, may be exercised at the price fixed for each of these ranks.

"Are the Tigers out of the pennant running this year? Decidedly not," said Manager Hughie Jennings the other day. "We've got to work harder than ever before, that's all. Who do I think will win if we fall to get in at the finish. Well, frankly, I like the looks of the Red Sox. The Red Sox team has even chances with the Athletics of landing first in the race, despite the big handicap the Connie Mack's now have on Taylor's men. As nothing about her except the initials signed in the verses. Only one who sees with the eyes of the spirit as well as with the eyes of the body could have written the "Threnody," curiously attractive in its simplicity and pathos, with which the little book opens. It contains many poems that make a similar appeal. The writer knows bluebird and robin, redbird and field lark and whippoorwill, just as she knows southern rivers and western plains; she knows rushing winds and running waters and the sights and sounds of lonely places; and moreover, she knows and almost tells those hidden things of the heart which never find complete utterance."

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Still the 400.
Ward—They say there are about 275,000 automobiles owned by individuals in the United States, or one for every 400 population.
McAllister—Well, are you in the 400 yet?—Yonkers Statesmen.

Filling Up.
"What do you do when you have no news? It must be hard to fill up."
"When we have no news," explained the New York Journalist, "we use larger type."

Twice as Much.
"So you want to sell your store. What's the matter with it?"
"Nothing is the matter with it. Look here, I bought this store a year ago. It was doing absolutely no business at all. In the first six months its business has doubled!"

A Chronic Victim.
"Ever buy any false stocks?"
"All kinds, and I have also gone into more than a hundred various schemes. I'd buy a half interest in a railroad if I saw a prospect approached."

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SCIENCE AND INVENTION

CLOUDS TO PREDICT WEATHER.

Forecasts Made by Dr. A. de Quervain of Zurich, Are of Utmost Scientific Importance.

Cloud weather forecasts made by Dr. A. de Quervain of Zurich are of the utmost scientific and practical importance. His deductions are based on the familiar cumulus cloud of warm summer days. When reaching heights of six or seven miles it becomes a trundle cloud. The high floating top assumes the shape of a feecey ice needle cloud and extends sideways in anvil shape. The ordinary cumulus cloud undergoes similar transformations at a level of three to four miles, and so does not lead to the formation of thunder storms but merely to the production of feecey clouds.

This sort of cloud can be regarded as a presage of good weather. The well shaped hooded clouds have not been sufficiently explained. Often they encompass the top of a quickly rising cumulus cloud, and until recently were thought to be instrumental in the production of hail. They are always found to be intimately connected with existing feecey clouds, and on the other hand presage bad weather, occurring previous to thunder storms.

Even such reliable presages of thunder storms are the remarkably delicate varieties of feecey clouds which are mostly found floating about four miles high. On a darker layer there are superposed delicate white heads. These lofty curly heads, generally in the morning, safely predict a thunder storm within twenty-four hours. By balloon ascents it was found that the occurrence of these clouds coincides with a violent drop in the temperature.

PNEUMATIC HEEL FOR SHOES

Expression "Walking on Air," Hitherto Used Metaphorically, Now Has Real Meaning.

The expression "walking on air," hitherto used metaphorically, has now a real meaning. A New York man has invented a pneumatic heel for shoes by means of which the wearer of the shoes will actually walk on air. The leather heel of the shoe has a circular opening into which fits a conical metal body open at the bottom, thus leaving an air space around the apex of the cone. Across the bottom of the cone is an elastic rubber heel piece, and on this is a leather tread.

IMPROVED BEEF-JUICE PRESS

French Inventor Arranges Device for Securing One of Best Foods for Invalids.

One of the best foods for invalids is the juice of rare beef, which is cut into fragments and pressed out by means of a small hand press. An inventor in France has recently devised a very simple press for this purpose, which allows of expressing the juice of a large amount of beef at a time. The press is similar to the ordinary type, being formed of a suitable receptacle with a plunger, which is forced down by a hand screw. Instead of operating the plunger for each piece of beef, the device is arranged to take a number of layers of beef, which are separated by disks of corrugated and perforated metal, as shown in the cross sectional view, says Scientific American. The press is provided with a spout at one side, through which the juice is drained out into a cup or bowl. After the plunger has been forced down the press may be hung up on a nail, allowing the beef juice to drain out thoroughly.

MECHANICAL FAN ON CHAIR

Each Movement of Rocker Serves to Make Device Revolve by Means of Gearing.

There are several kinds of chair fans, but almost if not quite all of them are of the sort that waves a palm-leaf fan over the head. An Ohio man has invented a revolving fan for connection with a rocking chair that seems to be an improvement on all of them. This revolving fan is held over the head of the person sitting in the chair by means of a curved metal support. Running down the back of the chair is a driving shaft which connects with a speed gearing under the seat. There are two gears, a winding shaft and clutch and a ratchet, the last named operated by rock arms pivoted in one of the rockers of the chair. As the chair rocks forward the ratchet is moved one way and turns the gearing, which in turn operates the driving shaft and makes the fan revolve. When the chair rocks backward the ratchet is turned in the opposite direction and the whole movement is reversed. Thus a steady current of air is kept up as long as the chair is moving.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

The surface of the earth is said to be 196,971,984 square miles. It is said by anatomists that people hear better with their mouths open. The average hen will lay 400 eggs, nearly one-half of them in her third year. A watch ticks 157,680,000 times in a year, and the wheels travel 3,558 1/2 miles. Almost any flower can be bleached white by exposure to the fumes of sulphur. It takes 7,000 tons of coal to bring one of the modern liners across the Atlantic. Lavender and rose perfumes are credited with the virtue of being microbe killers. Thirty-eight of every 1,000 Englishmen marry after they are more than 60 years old. The earliest coinage that can be called American was struck off in Massachusetts in 1652. Ten ships, each a century or more old, are still in active service in the Danish mercantile marine. There are about 3,000 windings every twenty-four hours, taking the entire world into consideration. Experiments with the ultra-violet light appear to show that it is more effective for sterilizing liquids than ozone. Paris has thirty-two miles of underground railways and the construction of twenty-three more miles has been authorized. The amount of carbon exhaled from a man's lungs each day, if it could be solidified, would equal that in a lump of coal weighing half a ton. Up to 1789 the chief water works of New York City was in Chatham street, near Park row. The water was carted about the city in casks and sold from carts. High atmospheric pressure in the case of persons not doing manual labor has been found to act as a mental stimulus, increasing the impulse to talk. Prof. Lowell announces that he has discovered a new canal 1,000 miles in length on Mars. The canal developed between May and September of last year. It was so cold in New York part of the winter of 1779 that residents in the vicinity were compelled to cut down the tall trees that stood at what is now the head of Wall street to make kindling wood. A French scientist has invented an apparatus for sterilizing water, which passes in it in spiral tubes around a long mercury vapor lamp, to utilize the bactericidal properties of the violet and ultra-violet rays. Scotland has a system of eight banks with 12,000 branches.

AROUND THE BASES

Jack Sheridan has been created the tutor of the young "arbitrators" of the American league. Ban Johnson does not let the veteran get away from him and made a new job for the man that has been calling balls and strikes in the league ever since the start ten years ago.

The baseball fans of St. Paul are watching and waiting for the blow-up of that Minneapolis club, and if the bottom of the Miller sack does not fall out within the next two weeks there will be several suicide ticks turned in the city of the Saints.

Pitcher Walter Manning, who has been with the New York American league club since 1908, has been released to Rochester of the Eastern league. Lawrence McClure, the former Amherst college twirler, has been turned over to Jersey City.

Lord, who was recently traded by the Naps to the Athletics for infielder Rath, is killing the ball for Mack. He made four hits in the first game of a double-header the other day against his former teammates just to show McGuire's poor judgment.

All of the White Stockings went "swimming" the other day shortly after they had reached Detroit. They didn't return until supper time, even then there wasn't life enough in the squad to start an argument.

Billy Sunday is to be a close neighbor of Billy Sullivan near Roseburg, Ore. Sunday's fruit orchard will be near enough to permit the two veterans to get together for a fanning bee every once in a while.

Dick Cooley has his rosters pretty well trained out in Topeka. After the Topeka team lost twice the other day the fans took after the umpire and chased the poor fellow a mile and a half, but Tip O'Neill would not have him on his staff if he was not a good runner.

Frank Navin, president of the Detroit Tigers, wants young men to help the champions. The recent slump of the team has caused Navin to send Jimmy Casey and Malachi Kittredge scouting along with Bob Lowe and the orders are to bring in young players to take the place of the veterans that are showing signs of decay.

Fred Tenney may become the baseball coach at Harvard next year. His salary will be \$2,000 and in his spare moments he would be furnished with fine suspension, and this rule is being rigorously enforced. Mr. Lynch is very earnest in his desire to make

the game clean and attractive to the best people, and he is succeeding in his intention.

More than \$5,000,000 will be paid out this year in salaries to baseball players. This does not include the enormous expense of keeping parks in order, buying supplies and paying traveling expenses. The total expenditure for the baseball of the two big leagues during the season this year will run close to \$10,000,000. Baseball is a paying institution. August Herrmann, chairman of the National Baseball commission, predicts that this season will pay eight per cent. on the money invested in baseball. "Baseball is the greatest business in the land," he says. "It is a progressive business and is continually growing."

Paul Smith, left fielder of the Canton team of the Illinois-Missouri league, was purchased the other day by President Murphy of the Cubs for \$500. James Murphy, a brother of the president, located the nineteen-year-old player on a scouting trip. Smith is six feet one inch tall, weighs 190 pounds, and has been batting close to the .320 mark. It is his first year in professional baseball and he will remain with Canton until the Illinois-Missouri league season closes.

Joe Tinker.

ahead of him, and three with the three who follow him. Ordinarily Chance permits us to use our own judgment as to what to do at bat and on bases, but if he gives a signal from the bench it is carried out. If he signals hit, the batter hits, if he signals bunt, and it is that working together and hitting together that has won for us.

No matter how good a player may be, he is worthless to a club until he learns to forget himself and his batting average and hit for runs. It is team work and team hitting that wins games.

O'Rourke to Play One More Game.
Expressing a desire to round out 40 years of professional baseball playing, James H. "Orator" O'Rourke of Bridgeport (Conn.) League, lawyer, former owner of the Bridgeport team, and one of the oldest, if not the oldest professional player in the country, will probably catch one game for New Haven during the present season. When the Bridgeport man spoke of his desire, Cameron said he would be pleased to have him play in any game the veteran might find convenient. This will make O'Rourke's thirty-eighth year in baseball. He says he wishes to play one game a year as long as he is able to do so.

Sox Can Now "See Kelly."
The National commission has decided that the Chicago American's claim to A. M. Kelly is valid and that the Holyoke club must strike his name from its suspended list. The evidence showed that terms submitted by Kelly were not accepted by Holyoke. Kelly's claim for salary will be considered later.

Courtney in Bad Shape.
Charles E. Courtney, famous as the coach of the Cornell crews, is seriously ill with acute indigestion at his summer home on Cayuga lake. So alarming were the reports of his condition that J. W. Dugan, graduate manager of athletics, and Judge Frank Irvine of the Cornell Athletic association hastened to his bedside.

Speaker Hitting Ball Hard.
Speaker's hitting is winning many games for the Boston Red Sox. He is always to be seen in a pinch, and promises to give Lajoie and Cobb a hard run for the premier batting honors of the American League.