

# WHERE THE SPRING BIRDS COME FROM



It is this that we should expect to get from the bird. As an economical asset, which we are trying to make of him now, he is a failure, and has always been—no matter whether his tribe be large or small. Our Agricultural Department reports that such and such per cents of his stomach contents are so and so, and, therefore, he is a great benefactor in the destruction of insects and weed seeds. But he makes no impression on the quantity of either, and eats as many helpful parasites as enemies, and sows and grows more bad seed than he digests. Nobody is making the farmer believe that birds are bonanzas, for he is not a fool; and all creation and some other places are not going to be able to convince him that a crow that plucks corn by the root and rips it up in the milk; that picks out the eyes of lambs and pigs, and robs the hen that has "stole her nest," is a benefactor, because, when the bird cannot do better, he digs out angle worms in the meadow sod, and turns up a white grub occasionally, if it comes in his way. But this same farmer will rejoice if his wife has a geranium in her window; and through this form of sentiment is the only hope of saving such birds as are worth saving.

### Some Fly Far.

The extent of a bird's migration may vary greatly. Curiously many of those which nest farthest north may spend the winter farthest south. This characterizes the many plover forms. Some of these which deposit their eggs in a shallow scrape on the borders of Behring Sea in our summer may probe the mud of the swamps of Patagonia or even pass to Australasia in winter. More moderate is the killdeer and Wilson's snipe, which may nest with us, rarely pass Bermuda, or at best Northern South America, while the woodcock often stays in our Southern States, and at times does not pass the swamps on our own State's southern border.

In their winter resorts most birds haunt the same sort of cover that they live in at the North, but some, such as robins, change habits and food. These flock in hundreds, subsist on berries exclusively, and are wild and suspicious in the South. Many remain with us of late years, but resort to the woods and tangles. If we had sufficient winter berries all our robins might stay with us the year round. For this reason there project into the bird routes certain peninsulas or oases, where the conditions are detaining, and here many tarry all the winter. Such are the dense thickets of our rivers.

This staying is strikingly true of the bluebird; so much so in certain regions that of late he is losing the title of "harbinger of spring," which Longfellow gave him; but with us of the highlands of the West his melody is what Burroughs has called it—"the violet of sound"—a phrase worthy of the bird—and the man. The meadow lark, however, is pressing him

for the honors of earliness and timeliness, but the latter does not come around our homes and so about us with the oil of optimism; and he cannot put that shimmer of the very sky into a tremulous wing. The bluebird is more than musical—he is operatic, histrionic, nay, innocently bacchanalian in the prodigality of his ecstasy. He is more than a promise and a prophecy; he is the first fruit of itself which the spring aures has thrown down to the earth.

### Blackbirds Stay Close.

None of the blackbirds go very far south. Brewer's blackbird is a native of our plains region, and winters all over Mexico, but our common purple grackle and the cowbird stop in the Southern States. They all come up as the furrow opens, flitting from clod to clod, while they creak as if they would urge the season on. When they reach or approach their summer homes all species may mount the tall treetops in great mixed flocks and sing in concert or discord, as the case may be; but on the whole the melody is one of the pleasantest of spring sounds. It may be jarred by the wheelbarrow creak of the cowbird, but the suggestion of grazing cows and golden dandelions is even in that.

More lowly is the passing of the bobolink, a branch of the same tribe. He is a bird of the fields and dead weed stalks. As is well known, this is another bird that changes habit and form with change of habitat. The males now are again in splendid nuptial plumage, and manifest as they pass that contagious happiness so aptly described by Wilson Flag Bryant and Irving. No other nation has such a bird. His melody is more delightfully instrumental than anything we have. It is the melody of the swan refined, reduced, etherealized, though it is so terrestrial. The different members of the wrens vary much among each other in their winter habitats. The Northern wren usually seems to think that he has gone far south if he goes from Minnesota to Missouri, though he may go as far as the gulf. The Carolina wren scarcely moves at all during the season, and may sing at any time.

### The Brown Thrasher.

The brown thrasher is now classed as of the wren forms, and not of the thrush forms. His arrival is always announced during the first bright hour after he comes. His journey is a musical one, and even in the Southern States, where he winters, his singing is frequent. He is a bird of the spring purely in the matter of song, but as a berry eater he stays with the crop, early and late. The charm of domesticity and appropriate timeliness is that of the phoebe. He comes at just the right hour and whistles at the proper spot. Above the romping places in the haymow, under the cool arch of the "branch" culvert is not his last year's cabin hanging still, and are not the years, away down to the wee small ones, punctuated with the dip of his tail? In his combination of sibilance and giggle there is hinted everything which the boy expects the spring to bring, and to the man all that the years have brought. He and his tribe of flycatchers must go far enough south to find flying things the season through. Some of them go to Central America, while others may subsist in Florida and thereabout.

The hummingbird goes far south to visit the many other species of his tribe which live permanently there. He can come north only with the opening corollas. He may be seen battling with the bumblebees on the edge of the wintaria cups. All the swallows winter south of the United States. Of course an occasional one stays nearer and drifts up ahead of his fellows, but he does not make the summer, as the proverb goes.

No matter whence the bird comes to us, no matter whether we note his color or flight—even if he be merely like Tennyson's lark, "a sightless song," he may be our comfort; and the earlier he comes the better.

**P**OPLE of the North are fortunate in the enjoyment of the changes of the seasons. Four times a year they have the "very spice of life" waited to their doors; and twice annually it comes in pleasurable and compelling contrast. In a few things beyond the greening sward and bursting bud and bloom is the break of climatic monotony more noticeable than in the coming of the vernal birds. One need not be a student or scientist to enjoy their arrival. While other things appeal to sight, mainly, the birds may and do plead to the ear as well as the eye. Unfortunately he is in whose heart also they do not rouse at least a pleasant memory. He is behind the times in the race from savagery to modern culture. The new bird's song is an annual inundation of optimism—a great fertilizing flood of inspiration. Thoreau said, the year that he grew beans, that he placed as much faith in the brown thrasher's song as he did in the fertilizers which he used. This was putting poetically the trust in which each spring the farmer, though he is gray and bent in failure, opens the furrow and drops the seed. His new inspiration has come through the vernal yawning, as nature stretches herself from her winter sleep, and, like her, he feels strong again.

## HUMOR and PATHOS of the "LITTLE AD."



"Advertise." That's the watchword to many a twentieth century success, and that watchword is becoming to be more and more generally adopted. All kinds of people, many varieties of interest, are turning to the advertising method in these good young days of 1910.

Consider for a moment the columns beyond columns under the heading of two words—a tale of tragedy in itself—"Situations Wanted." These columns are divided into two classes—"Situations Wanted, Male," and "Situations Wanted, Female"—and if you will take both classes in the Sunday newspapers of New York or Chicago on any given Sunday you will find that thousands of men and women are appealing to the world through those little "want ads."

There are starving children in those columns. You can't see them, but they're there, just the same. Where? You ask. In this two-line notice, for instance, which says that a man, "40, sober, industrious, married, wants work at anything."

"The industrious man of 40 is the father of three children, who, at the moment you carelessly glance at the advertisement—paid for with almost the last nickel—are waiting for a square meal until 'papa gets work again.'"

There are a great many men in the "want ad" columns who are anxious to go to "work at anything." This is an excellent index of the proposition that in big cities men who are willing to work cannot by any means get work. The plutocratic theorist and parlor philosopher are often heard to declare that "a man who is willing to work can always get work." There's lots of work for every one."

Here are a few sample "ads" of the men who apparently need work badly:

MAN—49 YEARS, FORMER STEAMSHIP steward, wishes position on shore at anything; best of references.

MAN—28, WILLING TO WORK AT anything.

MAN—36, BUILDING MECHANIC, wishes position at anything.

MAN—32, SEeks WORK AT ANY thing, when no object.

MAN—UNFORTUNATE, WITHOUT JOB; splendid worker; educated.



**YOUNG MAN—22, WANTS POSITION** at anything. The women who advertise for work are as a rule more particular. They are scarcely any of the "work at anything" class in the columns headed "Situations Wanted—Female." Look at such advertisements as these, for instance:

**COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY GRADUATE** desires position as secretary or clerical work during daytime; education scientific and classical; practical business experience; ability as an orator and debater in college organization; highest references and recommendations from educators.

**ALWAYS HAPPY, BRIGHT, YOUNG, REFINED, sympathetic lady, highly educated,** would make excellent secretary-companion to lady; French, English, German, Italian spoken, written, translated fluently; typewriting; good conversationalist, musician; hours disengaged; would also give companionship for congenial home.

**A CULTURED COMPANION OR CHAPERON**, English, good birth, London, linguist, French, Paris, German, Dresden, Italian; brilliant pianist, vocalist; experienced traveler; bright sympathetic temperament; highest references.

**A YOUNG LADY, DAUGHTER** deceased statesman, cultured, refined, fully capable, desires like charge clerical home or apartment; references.

If it is true that there are thousands of men and women looking for work, it is equally true that there are thousands of employers looking for workers through the "want ad." But analysis of the long lines of situations vacant and demands for workers of different kinds show that many of the positions open are out of the reach of numerous classes of the "out-of-work."

There are, for example, hundreds of "ads" for agents, solicitors and canvassers. But these are commission propositions, where the man must be reasonably well dressed to begin work and where he must carry himself on his own resources until he "produces results" for his employer in the shape of actual orders or sales. Such positions are beyond the range of your genuine down-and-outer.

There are, too, plenty of chances for women to go to work, but much of the work offered would scarcely make an over-whelming appeal to many women who are seeking jobs through their own "want ads." Here is a sample:

**LADY—ABOUT 100 POUNDS, FOR** audubon illustration show; travel; experience unnecessary.

You can enter all sorts of lucrative business enterprises with a modest capital. If you command a sum ranging anywhere from \$150 to \$2,000 you can get into "the best paying business in the city." But, of course, you've always got to put up your capital first. Here are some of these "ads" for pleasure capitalists that should get cartloads of replies:

**BE A CHEWING GUM MANUFACTURER** at your home; no machinery necessary; wonderful profit; big demand.

Here is the sort of thing that the columns generally carry:

**NAN—HAVE LOST ADDRESS, PLEASE** send important letter.

**MISS FRINELLO BREVOORT,** S. C. K.—COME HOME NEXT WEEK. M. WILL CHARLES STRAUSS KINDLY call on REGINALD WOFFENDIN.

**JAMES LYNCH—MOTHER DANGER** only ill; come at once.

**A REFINED YOUNG LADY, GOING TO** Palm Beach for several weeks, desires companionable lady willing to pay own expenses.

**WILL PAY FOR ADDRESSES OF CUS-** tmer A. Baercklau, St. and Morgan A. Romney.

**WANT CORRECT ADDRESS FORMER** townerman, Cornelius Jackson.

**H. EVANS—STILL WORKING OLD** job; hopeless; hope, haven't studied since.

Perhaps the most bizarre of all "ads" to the average reader are those which are carried in the theatrical weeklies. Here the layman finds himself lost in a jargon of professional expressions and abbreviations that tends to cause dizziness. Look at these and see if you don't need a chart.

**WANTED—MAN FOR GENTLE HEAV-** enly, char, and soft bus man. His girl cannot to double stage, burlesque to double 2d violin, one silent team. Strictly sober people only wanted (noor-ters get quick). The finest state-room cars on the road. A long season and your money when due.

**WANTED—QUICK AND COME-** dian, blackface, S. and D. man, sketch team that can play singles and doubles. I pay all. Salary's yours each week. Happy Lauglin, Bessie Blix, write.

The "heavy" desired is an actor to play the heavy parts in plays. "Char." is the abbreviation for "character part actor." "Doubling" of musical instruments means that the performer must do acrobatics or some other "act" where speaking is not necessary. The "S. and D." comedian is nothing less than a comedian who can be comical as a Dutchman or Irishman, while "S. and D." man must be able to sing and dance.

Take it all in all there's more in the advertising columns than mere "ads."

**Divorce Here and in Canada.**

The divorce history of Canada, when compared with the records shown in the recent reports of the United States investigations, is almost inconceivable. Outside the maritime provinces, three in number, and the province of British Columbia, which contain approximately 1,325,000 inhabitants, the only divorce granting power for Canadians is the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa.

For the last ten years the absolute divorces granted by Parliament have been as follows: 1900, 5; 1901, 2; 1902, 4; 1903, 9; 1904, 14; 1905, 14; 1906, 6; 1907, 8; 1908, 8; 1909, 16. In the four provinces where local divorce courts exist the proportion has been but little more and the local divorces granted add little to the general total.

The significance of these figures is appreciable only when contrasted with the records recently made public in the United States. There were 68,000 American divorces granted in 1906, and the records of the American government estimate that one in each twelve marriages results in divorce.

**A Scheme.** "Oh, Willie!" exclaimed little Elsie. "What did you open that oven door for? Don't you know that will spoil the cake mamma's baking?" "Sure!" replied Willie, "and if it's spoiled she'll let us eat all we want of it!"—Catholic Standard and Times.

**Always on Tap.** Wigg—Although a deaf mute, he has a wonderful fund of information. Wagg—Yes, he has it all at his finger's ends.—Gateway.

**NOTES ELECTRICAL.** A safe method of firing shots in mines by electricity has been devised. It is claimed that the Bell telephone system has four and a half million telephones in service. The city of Durban, South Africa, will spend a million dollars for electric lights and railways. The Chinese laundries in Brooklyn are being electrified with electric lights, motor driven washers and wringers and electric flatirons.

**SPLINTERS.** Rowboats—carmen. The bigger the boarding-house the smaller the grub. Even when you are on the right track you want to keep your eye on the rails. Bobbs—Did you put your overcoat in camphor last spring? Dobbs—No, I put it in hock. A balloon may be all right, but some people can't get used to the way it stops at stations.

**Mute Astonishment.** "Why don't you ladies thank a man who gives up his seat in a street car?" asked the censorious person. "As a rule, we can't," replied Miss Cayenne. "We're so surprised 'hat it takes our breath away."—Washington Star.

**Great Britain Best Customer.** All countries receive merchandise from the port of New York, but the best customer is Great Britain. The exports to that kingdom for the last year were valued at \$700,000,000.



Living cost has advanced consistently upward during the recent years. Efforts to learn why prices have increased have not been very satisfactorily answered. The farmer has insisted that he is not to blame, the butcher has blamed the packer, and the latter has completed the circuit by shifting the responsibility to the agriculturist, and the prices of foodstuffs have continued to soar. It may not help the American pocketbook any to know that the increase in the cost of living is not confined to any particular subdivision, but it may contribute a mite to the food for reflection to learn something of the situation in other parts of the world.

So widespread has been the demand for information concerning the present value of foodstuffs here and abroad that many of the United States consuls and consular agents have been requested to investigate and report concerning prices of foodstuffs. In general it appears that food prices abroad, and in cities where the wage rate is much lower than in this country, are as high as they are here. The reports indicate that the prices have been increased principally because the supply has not kept pace with the demand and not owing to any combination for the purpose of increasing the rates on the various articles.

In Hamburg, Germany, the average price of sirloin steak is 34½ cents a pound, the latest quotation on tenderloin being 43½ cents. Veal chops bring 32½ cents, while leg of veal is quoted at 30 cents. Pork ranges in price from 18 to 23 cents; mutton from 19 to 20 cents and ham from 19 to 21 cents, the latter being the price for a fine grade of the sliced article. These prices are furnished by a first class dealer, whose prices are neither the highest nor the lowest, but there is slight variation between dealers in fashionable and unfashionable, the chances being that the superior cuts of meats will be found in the shops where the highest prices prevail.

From Hanover, which is considered an inexpensive city in which to live, the following prices are quoted: Beef and veal, 20½ cents; pork and mutton, 19; smoked ham, 35; bacon, 22½; wheat flour, 4½; rye flour, 3½; wheat bread, 5½; rye bread, 3; coffee, medium Java, roasted, 39½; table butter, 37; milk, per quart, 4¼; eggs, per dozen, 40.

On the basis of income, the German, in comparative occupation with the American worker, should not pay more than 50 per cent of the prices he now pays for his food, but as a matter of fact he pays as much as the people of other respectable nations. Consul Robert J. Thomson accounts for ability to live under such conditions to the fact that the German housekeeper is rigidly economical and would be able to maintain her table and exist fairly well on the waste of many American families of similar position in life. So high is

|                   | Former Price. | Present Price. |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Beef, 2.2 lbs.    | \$ 2.62       | \$ 3.50        |
| Pork, 2.2 lbs.    | 48            | 51             |
| Veal, 2.2 lbs.    | 26@29         | 32@34          |
| Pork, 2.2 lbs.    | 29            | 44@47          |
| Liver, 2.2 lbs.   | 29            | 44@47          |
| Geese, each.      | 1.21          | 2.03           |
| Pigeons, each.    | 15            | 24             |
| Ducks, each.      | 60            | 1.01           |
| Wheat flour, 2.2  | 39            | 41             |
| Levulin, 2.2 lbs. | 10            | 15             |
| Milk, 2.2 lbs.    | 15            | 21             |
| Butter, 2.2 lbs.  | 15            | 21             |
| Beef, quart.      | 67            | 11             |
| Antiracite coal,  | 24            | 32             |
| 110 lbs.          | 15            | 21             |

This is a factory town in a district which is not very productive agriculturally, but it shows how prices are soaring. When it is understood that the average workman here is accustomed to live on 20 cents a day the need for some change is evident. Then again, the enormous increase in prices of foodstuffs has not meant an advance in wages, which are practically the same as they were twenty years ago.

**What He Lacked.** A Cleveland lawyer whose interests frequently take him to a certain town in Indiana, tells of a quaint character there known to the townspeople as "Necessity" Nelson. Nelson gets on pretty well despite the fact that he is a lack of all trades "and master of none." He poses mainly as an attorney.

When the Cleveland man first went to the Indiana town he was naturally enough very curious as to the odd nickname given Nelson. "Why do you call him 'Necessity'?" he asked. "Because he knows no law," was the answer.—Chicago Tribune.

It is age that makes a man look old; in a woman's case it is trouble.

## GETTING HIGH IN ONIONS.

Brownsville, Tex., Made Famous by Strong Legume.

It has been several years since Brownsville, Tex., became famous because part of a negro regiment was accused of shooting up the town, but C. C. Morton, who helps to supply water for the stock and vegetables and sugar cane they raise down there, says that the place has settled down to work and get rich; and they are shipping carloads of onions to New York every day.

"We irrigate down in our part of Texas in a different way from what they do in the west," said Mr. Morton, according to the New York Sun. "We pump the water out of the river.

There are twenty-five plants on the Rio Grande, all put up during the last five years, and we are getting ready to put in a big enterprise that will extend into the third county from the coast and will cost \$6,000,000 or \$7,000,000. At present about 300,000 acres are under irrigation. The present method is to pump the water up to the top of the river bank and there it flows into canals, some of them as long as eighteen or twenty miles.

"The country about Brownsville was absolutely depopulated until about five years ago. Brownsville was 160 miles from a railroad. They are now building a combination railroad and traffic bridge across the Rio Grande at that place, and on May 1 it is expected that through trains will be run through from New Orleans to Mexico City. Brownsville ten years ago had a population of about 8,000, of whom 90 or 95 per cent were Mexicans. To-day the population is about 12,000, with fully a fourth of them Americans. The Mexicans furnish good labor at 50 cents a day.

"Every two weeks from 12,000 to 15,000 home seekers come into Texas, taking advantage of the cheap tickets offered, and we are getting a good many of them in the country around Brownsville. They plant sugar cane and alfalfa and all the truck crops. One specialty they have gone in for is green onions, which net them from \$400 to \$600 an acre. Last year about 5,000 carloads were raised. Not one onion was shipped from that country five years ago, and today the Bermuda onion is being driven out of the market. Bermuda does not ship here 25 per cent of what it did when Texas started in the onion business. They are getting the Texas product in New York now." Mr. Morton did not bring a sample with him.

## CAMP ON A NEW YORK ROOF

Uptown Doctor Builds \$400 Retreat on Top of His House.

There is a good deal of talk nowadays about the value of plenty of fresh air in sleeping rooms. Dr. Addison W. Baird tells us in the Surrey that a roof camp that he has built on the top of his New York dwelling. Here he sleeps, and here he finds rest in the open air is quieter and deeper than indoors.

"One may be sleepy when the alarm sounds in the morning, but rises refreshed and invigorated," he says. "In fact, this urban open air life has a number of pleasant features. There is a sense of remoteness, of being away from the noise and movement of the city.

"Looking out over the roofs the scene is often one of great beauty. The electric light streaming upward on the tall buildings of the neighborhood is very striking, and further on can be seen the Palisades with their brilliant arc lights and the dark river beneath. In winter time moonlight glistening on the surrounding snowcapped roofs forms a very attractive picture.

"This roof house is twelve feet square and consists of a steel framework covered in with fireproof materials to comply with the building code. Across the front extends a series of doors, so that this whole side can be thrown open.

"The walls are double and the interspace has openings top and bottom, thus providing free circulation of air, and the roof also is double, with ventilation through a small cupola. The effect of this cellular construction is to prevent the apartment from becoming overheated when the sun's rays play upon it throughout the long summer days. The whole cost was less than \$400."

## Baseball and Grandmas.

I remember being on a Chicago street car, says Ellis Parker Butler in Success Magazine, sitting beside a nice old lady in mourning, a year or so ago. She was nervous and kept glancing at me, and then glancing away again. It made me uncomfortable. I thought she took me for a pickpocket or some other bad man.

Finally she could contain herself no longer. She leaned over. "Excuse me," she said, "but have you heard yet how the Cubs game came out? I hadn't, and her face fell, but in a moment she saw a possible opportunity for consolation. "Well," she asked, "can you tell me who they are putting in the box to-day?" How was that for a gray-haired grandma? In Chicago they all talk baseball, from the cradle to the grave. Up to three o'clock in the afternoon no one talks about anything but the game of the day before. From three o'clock on the only subject is the game that is being played. The school child who can not add two apples plus three apples and make it five apples with any certainty of correctness can figure out the standing of the Chicago nines with one hand and a pencil that will make a mark only when it is held straight up and down.

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