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### English Singing Birds

Like most Americans interested in | It was not a loud song, but very mubirds and books, I know a good deal sical and attractive, and the bird is about English birds as they appear in | said to sing practically all through the books. I know the lark of Shake- year. The song of the wren interspeare and Shelley and the Ettrick Shepherd: I know the inghtingale of the least like that of our house wrens, Milton and Keats; I know Words but, on the contrary, like that of our worth's cuckoo; I know mavis and winter wren. The theme is the same merile singing in the merry green wood as the winter wren's, but the song did of the old ballads; I know Jenny Wren | not seem to me to be so brilliantly muand Cock Robin of the nursery books. sical as that of the tiny singer of the Therefore I have always much desired north woods. The sedge warbler sang to hear the birds in real life; and the in the thick reeds a mocking ventriloopportunity offered last June. As I quial lay, which reminded me at times could snatch but a few hours from a of the less pronounced parts of our very exacting round of pleasures and yellow breasted chat's song. The duties, it was necessary for me to be cuckoo's cry was singularly attractive with some companion who could identify both song and singer. In Sir rolling, many times repeated, note of 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 Basingstoke, we drove to the pretty, across the sound towards the glory of we tramped for three or four hours, then again drove, this time to the edge of the New Forest, where we first golden, leisurely chiming of the wood took tea at an inn, and then tramped thrushes, chanting their vespers; through the forest to an inn on its oth- through the still air came the warble clusion of our walk my companion | fall we heard the flight song of an made a list of the birds we had seen, oven bird from the same belt of timputting an asterisk opposite those 41 of the former and 23 of the latter, his song to scold like an overgrown

\*Thrush, \*Biackbird, \*Lark, \*Yellow sang in the shrubbery; one robin had Hammer, \*Robin, \*Wren, \*Golden built its nest over the front, and one Crested Wren, \*Goldfinch, \*Greenfinch, over the back door, and there was a Pied Wagtail, Sparrow, \*Dunnock chippy's nest in the wisteria vine by (Hedge Accentor), Missel Thrush, the porch. During the next 24 hours I Starling, Rook, Jackdaw, \*Black Cap, saw and heard, either right around the Garden Warbler, Willow Warbler, Chiff Chaff, 'Wood Warbler, 'Tree through the woods, the following 42 Creeper, \*Reed Bunting, \*Sedge War- birds: bler, Coot, Water Hen, Little Grebe (Dabchick), Tufted Duck, Wood Pigeon, Stock Dove, \*Turtle Dove, Pee-Partridge.

The bird that most impressed me

listened to larks, but I had never heard or the black cap warbler; and while I prominent part in the chorus which we Grasshopper Sparrow and Screech heard throughout the day on every Owl. 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 lawns, nests in the gardens in the same fashion. Its song has a general resemof the notes are far more musical, Indeed there were individuals among those we heard certain of whose notes seemed to me almost to equal in point of melody the chimes of the wood thrush; and the highest possible praise for any song bird is to liken its song the blackbird has received full justice he is. It is a fine thing for England beautiful singer.

melody, it can hardly be surpassed.

pretty little bird from the books, and knows and almost tells those hidden and attractive as he proved to be, but complete utterance. I had not realized how well he sang.

No Cause for Alarm.

"I have decided," said the theatrical manager, "to give you a trial, Miss 275,000 automobiles owned by individ-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 tights

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 the New York journalist, "we use large

ested me much, because it was not in and musical, far more so than the our rain-crow

Ten days later, at Sagamore Hill, I

was among my own birds, and was much interested as I listened to and looked at them in remembering the notes and actions of the birds I had seen in England. On the evening of June 9, 24 hours before I sailed from the first day I sat in my rocking Southampton. Getting off the train at chair on the broad veranda, looking smiling valley of the Itchen. Here the sunset. The thickly grassed hillside sloped down in front of me to a belt of forest from which rose the of vireo and tanager; and after nightber. Overhead an oriole sang in the which we had heard sing. There were weeping elm, now and then breaking wren. Song sparrows and cat birds house or while walking down to bathe

Little Green Heron, Quail, Red Tailed Hawk, Yellow Billed Cuckoo, Kingfisher, Flicker, Hummingbird, wit, Tit (?Coal Tit), \*Cuckoo, \*Night- Swift, Meadow Lark, Red Winged jar, \*Swallow, Martin, Swift, Pheasant, Blackbird, Sharp Tailed Finch, Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Bush Sparrow, Purple Finch, Baltimore on my walk was the blackbird. I had Oriole, Cowbunting, Robin, Scarlet already heard nightingales in abun-Thrush, Thrasher, Cat Bird, Scarlet dance near Lake Como, and had also Tanager, Red-Eyed Virco, Yellow Warbler, Black-Throated Green Warbler, either the blackbird, the song thrush, King Bird, Wood Pewee, Crow, Blue Jay, Cedar Bird, Maryland Yellow knew all three were good singers, Throat, Chickadee, Black and White I did not know what really beau- Creeper, Barn Swallow, White Breasted tiful singers they were. Blackbirds Swallow, Oven Bird, Thistlefinch, Veswere very abundant, and they played a perfinch, Indigo Bunting, Towhee,

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 just as our robin does, and it lives in first hand. Now there are many who delight in our birds, who know their songs, who keenly love all that belongs blance to that of our robin, but many to out-of-doors life. For instance, Madison Cawein and Ernest McGaffy have more like those of our wood thrush. 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 to that of the wood thrush or hermit Dinsmore, in the little volume of thrush. I certainly do not think that poems which she has just published, includes many which describe with in the books. I knew that it was a beauty and charm the sights and singer, but I really had no idea how sounds so dear to all of us who fine a singer he was. I suppose one of know American country life. Miss his troubles has been his name, just Dinsmore knows Kentucky, and the as with our own cat bird. When he gulf coast of Louisiana, and the great appears in the ballads as the merle, plains of North Dakota; and she knows bracketed with his cousin, the mavis, also the regions that lie outside of the song thrush, it is far easier to rec- what can be seen with material vision. ignize him as the master singer that For years in our family we have had some of her poems in the scrap book to have such an asset of the country- cut from newspapers when we knew side, a bird so common, so much in evi- nothing about her except the initials dence, so fearless, and such a really signed in the verses. Only one who sees with the eyes of the spirit as well The most musical singer we heard as the eyes of the body could have was the black cap warbler. To my written the "Threnody," curiously at my ear its song seemed more musical tractive in its simplicity and pathos, than that of the nightingale. It was with which the little book opens. It astonishingly powerful for so small a contains many poems that make a simbird; in volume and continuity it does that appeal. The writer knows blue not come up to the songs of the bird and robin, redbird and field lark thrushes and of certain other birds, and whippoorwill, just as she knows but in quality, as an isolated bit of southern rivers and western plains; she knows rushing winds and running Among the minor singers the robin waters and the sights and sounds of was noticeable. We all know this lonely places; and moreover, she I was prepared to find him as friendly things of the heart which never find

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Still the 400.

Ward-They say there are about uals in the United States, or one for every 400 population."

McAllister-Well, are you in the 400 yet?-Yonkers Statesmen.

er type."

Filling Up. "What do you do when you have no news? It must be hard to fill up." "When we have no news," explained

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