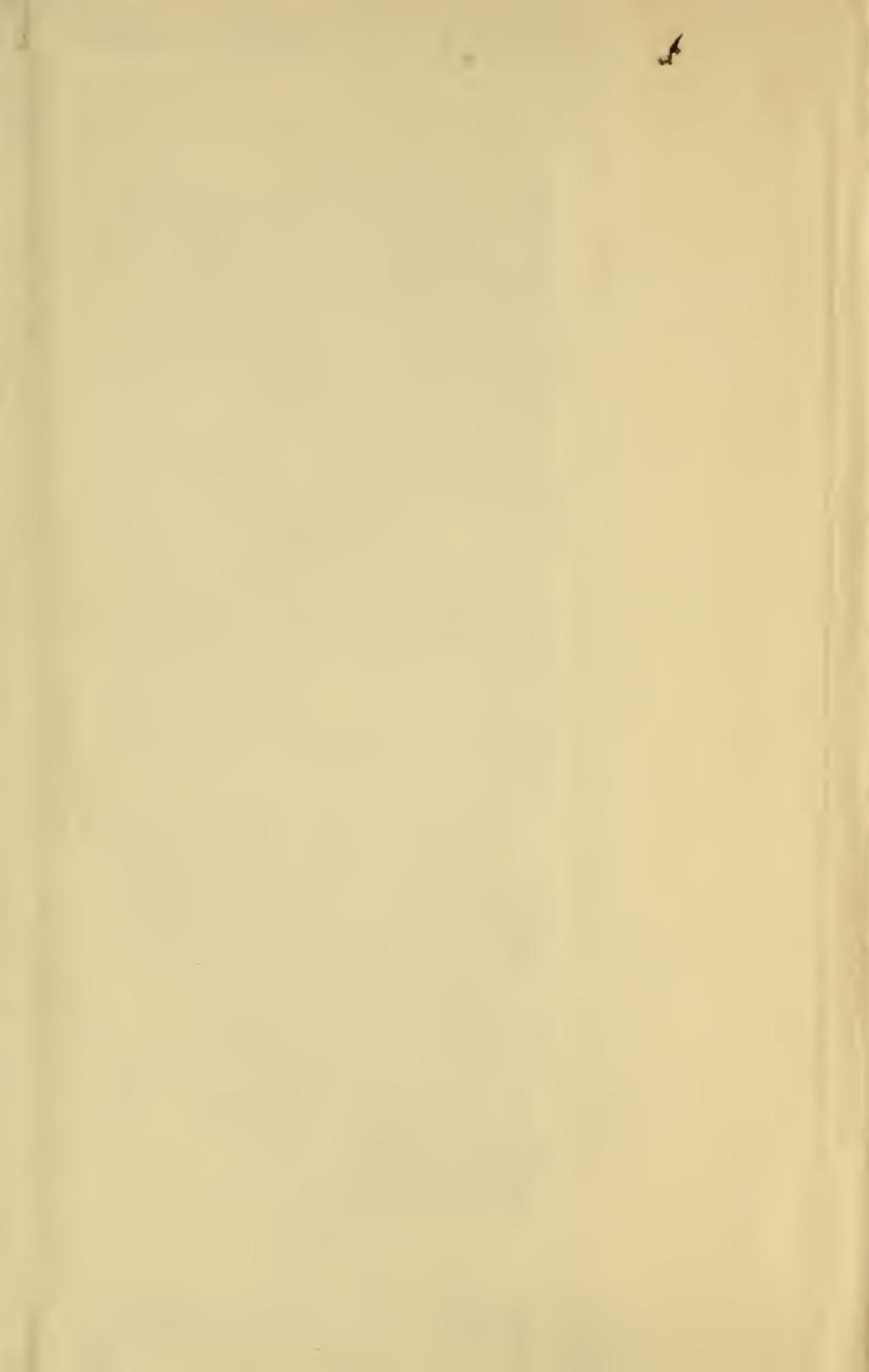


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BIRDS

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HOLDEN'S
BOOK ON BIRDS.

BY
CHARLES F. HOLDEN.

"LITTLE DEWDROPS OF CELESTIAL MELODY."



NEW-YORK BIRD-STORE, PUBLISHERS,
9 BOWDOIN SQUARE, BOSTON.

MDCCCLXXV.





C. F. Holden

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HOLDEN'S BOOK ON BIRDS.

BY
CHARLES F. HOLDEN.
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“Little dewdrops of celestial melody.” — CARLYLE.

231606

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P R E F A C E .

THE new work herewith presented has been written to meet the demand of the multitude of bird-lovers for a more extensive and exact knowledge of the care of our beautiful pets, the birds. All that was valuable in my previous writings has been retained. Of the 128 pages, 90 are new ; and the work is embellished with 32 illustrations of birds and 28 of cages and cage-fixtures ; and, for the benefit of those living at a distance, a price-list of both birds and cages is annexed.

Thanks for valuable information and assistance are due to Miss Mary Helen Boodey of Laconia, N.H., Mr. W. W. Caldwell, Mr. George B. Pearson, my brother Mr. George H. Holden, and many others.

The book in its new form, I hope, will retain all of its former friends, and that thousands of new ones may be added.

C. F. H.

JANUARY, 1875.



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THE SONG OF BIRDS.

BY W. W. CALDWELL.

WHEN spring returns in bud and flower,
And south winds breathe o'er hill and plain,
And winter's cold hath lost its power ;
Then longings come to hear again
From field and grove the blackbird's call,
The sparrow's chirp, and, over all,
The bobolink's exultant strain.

When summer blushes in the rose,
And woodland odors fill the air,
And all the grassy wayside glows
With golden light and blossoms fair ;
In welcome shade I love to rest,
While near me, o'er his hidden nest,
The linnet trills, and lulls my care :

Or wake at early dawn, when now
Faint flushes up the orient play,
And hear from every leafy bough
Glad choirs their adoration pay ;
Or, when the twilight purples die,
Thrill to the robin's plaintive cry,
His farewell to departing day.

And still, when winter spreads around
The chilly covering of the snow,
And woods in dreary silence bound
No more with sounds of joy o'erflow,
Beside my hearth I sit, and hear
The same sweet music ringing clear,
And summer-time within I know.

For look! where at the window swings
Yon blithe canary, full of glee;
And answers to my call, and sings
All day his varied melody,
So that I seem to hear again
The skylark's song across the main,
Or nightingale in Thessaly.

NEWBURYPORT, Jan. 14, 1875.





THE CANARY.

THE sweetest music of nature is the singing of those little angels of the trees, the birds. It gladdens the heart to hear their "wood-notes wild" ringing through those great cathedrals, the woods, whose tall green pillars are reared by the wonder-working hand of God. Their song seems to make

the sunshine brighter ; and we have often fancied we could see the golden rays darting and flashing, and keeping time to their warblings.

No doubt, when Eve wandered through Eden, and Adam wove her a bower of blushing roses, that the birds sang the self-same tune which they do now, and that the angels often listened when they "walked in the garden in the cool of day."

In all ages, in all countries, as far back as we have any record of time, the singing of birds has given delight to mankind ; and they must many a time have gladdened the hearts of Noah and his family, when he sailed over the wild waste of waters in his ark ; and the children that were with him would listen, and recall the green nestling places then deep down beneath the waves, where the sweet-voiced birds built and sang.

The wildwood hath its minstrels sweet,
That fill the forest-aisles with joy ;
And oft we seek their loved retreat,
To listen to the singers coy.
But not to woods need we repair
To hear the sweet canary's song :
He trills his clear and varied air
In quiet homes or city throng.
He loves our kindness and our praise,
And gladly cheers our darkest days.

Mary Helen Boodey.

Europeans have never known, to a certainty, the exact date of introduction of this charming warbler.

Aldrovandus describes the bird in his *Ornithology*, which bears date 1610.

Many authors assert that the island of Elba was the first European ground on which a canary found resting-place, having flown thither from a ship bound to Leghorn, which foundered near the island. These sweet songsters, thus set at liberty by accident, found a congenial clime, remained, and bred; and doubtless would have continued to do so, had not bird-trappers hunted them so assiduously, that not a single specimen was left on the island.

From Italy the birds were transported to France and Germany; and from the latter place the whole habitable globe is supplied. So we might with truth say, that, among the musicians who come to our shores to charm us with their notes, the largest orchestra is that of the singing-birds. They require very little of our money, and never demand an opera-house as the only theatre worthy their performance. A few dollars will buy one of these sweet singers, and a few more will build or buy an opera-house for his performances. He charges nothing for his singing, and is not fastidious as to his accommodations, carolling just as sweetly in the attic of the tired sewing-woman as in the boudoir of the fashionable lady. He becomes a friend to the lonely, and a comforter to such as are in trouble. From his cage, as well as from the wildwood, he sings of the love and care of Him without whose knowledge not one of the feathered tribe can fall to the ground. Like flowers, birds are a beautiful gift to a friend, with this

advantage, — they live longer, and, by their constant voice, recall to mind the giver.

The very general desire of the public to know how to take the best possible care of their pets, and the wish of the whole bird-trade for a treatise that could be implicitly relied upon, free from all the scientific attainments so freely shown in large works, and at a popular price, has led the author to publish what has been his own experience through a number of years.

First, we will commence with sick birds and their treatment. “My bird is sick: what shall I do for it?” this question is asked at the bird-stores times without number, daily; and it is just as easily answered without knowing *what ails the bird*, as it is for a physician to prescribe accurately for a disease when simply informed that a member of the family is sick, “and please send up some medicine at once.”

THE CAUSE OF MOST DISEASE is colds, which are occasioned by either hanging a bird in a draught of air, near a loose-fitting window, or keeping him in a very hot room (sixty degrees is the proper temperature for a bird) through the day, and then in a cool one at night, — a variation of perhaps forty degrees in twenty-four hours. This cold, if not cured at once, leads to asthma, and from that to a disease known as the gapes. The best cure for the cold is to feed, in addition to their regular seed, rape and canary, and perhaps millet, a paste made from a hard-boiled egg and one pulverized cracker, thoroughly mixed together, using no water in mixing,

the egg supplying sufficient moisture. Sometimes a bird seems hoarse, and apparently has

LOST HIS VOICE. — This is occasioned by over-singing: a little pure rock-candy, not flavored, dissolved in the drinking-water, and a quantity of red pepper put into the paste described above, will usually effect a cure. If, however, the cold is allowed to remain for several days without any attention or cure, it will pass rapidly from cold to asthma, and from that to gapes, which is best described by saying that the bird looks like a little puff-ball, with a constant panting, and his bill almost constantly opening and shutting, as if to catch breath. His food should be the same as described above. Many bird-fanciers have given small pieces of salt-pork (cut about the size of seed) with a quantity of red pepper thereon, with beneficial effect; also keep the bird warm, and give, with his rape and canary, ripe plantain if it can be had. Every morning he should have a small teaspoonful of warm bread and milk, and now and then a little bit of sponge-cake soaked in sherry wine.

ASTHMA, OR HARD BREATHING, when arising from an oppressed stomach, generally yields to plantain and rape-seed, moistened with water, as the sole food.

BIRDS TROUBLED WITH A DIARRHŒA can be greatly relieved by placing a rusty nail in their drinking-water. Another excellent remedy will be found in common chalk; let a small piece be placed between the wires; it is also well to scrape some quite fine, and scatter it with the sand on the bottom

of the cage. Should a bird be troubled with the reverse of this complaint, —

COSTIVENESS, — a piece of sweet apple, a little chickweed, lettuce, or any green food, will usually afford full relief. Most ailments of birds commence with a cold; and the old adage of the “ounce of prevention,” &c., is peculiarly applicable to the bird family. Oftentimes

A BIRD BRISTLES UP, sits moping upon the perch, with his head under his wing, and looks like a puff-ball. If this is occasioned by the bird having diarrhœa, give the remedies as directed. Should it be occasioned by costiveness, see article above.

Occasionally a bird will act in this manner when he has neither of these complaints. Should this be the case, examine first his food, and see if he has been properly fed. Many times it will be found that it is wholly occasioned by neglect in *not feeding* the bird, and sometimes by not supplying sufficient water for the bird to drink. If, however, it should prove that the bird has plenty of food, and is perfectly regular, then make a change in his food, taking away the seed, and feeding the soft food as recommended for birds with colds, and perhaps a small piece of sweet apple. Occasionally a canary is troubled with

EPILEPSY. — A sure cure for this has never been discovered. The author has taken a bulfinch, and other birds affected, and cut the hind-claws just sufficient to draw the blood, holding the foot in warm (not hot) water until the blood ceased to flow; then

a slight sprinkling — with the hand — with cold water: then feeding only on rape-seed which had been previously soaked in water, and a liberal supply of apple and green stuff, as recommended above, has generally effected a cure.

RUPTURE. — A kind of indigestion causes inflammation of the intestines, to which young birds are more especially subject. The symptoms are a swelling of the body, which, on blowing up the feathers, looks semi-transparent, and full of red veins; at the lower part are black turgid lumps, as though the intestines had fallen there in a knotted state. The cause of this is generally an over-abundance of nutrition, or bad or stale food or water; the remedy, if any there be, a spare diet, with a little alum or salt in the drink; groats and oatmeal are good in this case; if the bowels should be much relaxed, give bruised hemp and maw seed, with a little stale sponge-cake soaked in sherry wine. Sometimes the feathers of the bird come off: then rub the bare parts with fresh lard, or oil of almonds.

YELLOW GALL makes its appearance about the head and eyes; sometimes there is a small ulcer the size of a hemp-seed. This must be carefully cut off with a sharp penknife, and the place anointed with fresh butter, or washed with chamber-lye; the bird should have fresh nourishing food.

SNEEZING, often caused by an obstruction of the nostrils, may be cured by passing a very fine feather through them; sometimes it is the result of a cold. Good food, and careful exclusion from draughts, are the remedies in this case.

SWEATING. — A female canary will at times confine herself too closely to the nest, and thus generate a superabundance of heat which often destroys the brood. Wash her in a good strong solution of salt, and after a few minutes with fresh water; dry her as rapidly as possible in the sun. Do this once or twice a day, and sprinkle a little sherry wine over her plumage. Supply her with plenty of good food to tempt her off the nest; she is most likely a weakly bird, and injures herself by sitting too close. A sweating female is not fit for a breeder, so never use her for this purpose twice.

A question often asked is, —

“WHEN SHOULD A BIRD MOULT?” — Most birds shed their feathers in the months of September and October; and, though it is perfectly natural for them so to do, still the operation is accompanied with a slight disease. They should be fed on the soft paste before described; and, as they are not well covered with feathers, great care should be taken to keep them in a comfortably warm place out of all draughts of air. With these precautions a bird will fully moult in from four to six weeks. Should a bird not shed his wing and tail feathers readily, it is well to pull them out, — pulling, however, only one at a time.

BROKEN LIMBS are best left to themselves. Human contrivances, where so fragile a thing as a bird's leg or wing is concerned, are generally more mischievous than useful: Nature will, if possible,

perform the cure. Place the little sufferer carefully and tenderly in a small cage, without perches, upon some soft hay; let the seed and water be within reach, muffle up the cage with flannel or baize, keep every thing as quiet as possible, so that the bird may not be excited to move; the chances are, that, in a few days, all will be right again.

Occasionally a bird's limbs will be covered with scales, particularly an old bird's. The best way to remove them is to moisten the limb with quite warm milk; and a slight rubbing with the thumb and fore-finger back and forth will cause them to peel off. Care should be taken, however, not to break the under-skin.

SWOLLEN AND SORE LIMBS are greatly relieved, and oftentimes a permanent cure effected, by bathing the affected parts with diluted tincture of arnica.

SORE FEET. — This disease is usually occasioned by using a very small perch, and also by not using sufficient gravel for the bird to keep his feet clean. The perches for a canary, or other bird of similar size, should never be less than seven-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, and even larger; and for a mocking-bird, and all birds of his size, perches of five-eighths to three-quarters of an inch in diameter are far preferable. With such perches, and plenty of gravel, a bird will seldom have sore feet. Should he, however, be so troubled, the best remedy is to wash the feet in a gill of warm water to which has been added ten drops of tincture of arnica.

It often happens that a

BIRD'S CLAWS GROW VERY LONG, and require cutting. This is a particular operation; and care should be taken not to cut up into the blood-veins, which can be easily seen by holding the bird's claw in front of a strong light, and then not cutting within at least a sixteenth of an inch of the red vein.

WHY DOES MY BIRD LOSE THE FEATHERS AROUND HIS BILL, and his head become bare? There are two reasons for this. First, many birds seem afflicted with an eruption, or skin-disease, which causes the feathers to drop out. Such birds should be fed principally upon rape-seed, and occasionally a small piece of raw carrot, of which most birds are very fond; and, if a little olive-oil is at times put on the bare spot, the feathers will commence to grow more readily. Secondly, many birds are of a nervous and irritable disposition, never remaining in one position for a single instant, but are continually hopping to and fro against the wires of their cages, as if trying to get out, which is really the case; and, by coming constantly in contact with the hard substance, they ruin their plumage. Such a bird should be hung quite low, or, better still, placed on a table where he can be occasionally talked to, and noticed: then he will soon become accustomed to his home. When partially quieted, bathe the bare parts with water into which has been placed ten drops of the tincture of arnica: after the soreness (if any there has been) disappears, use a little olive-oil, as before mentioned.

One source of great annoyance to a bird, and also to his owner, is the

LITTLE RED BIRD-LICE. — We now put up a powder harmless to birds, which is applied directly to the bird, and effectually rids him of these annoying pests. It is put up in envelopes, and will be sent to any address by mail, prepaid, on receipt of twenty-five cents.

LOST HIS APPETITE. — At such times it is well to give a very little hemp, and all the millet-seed a bird will eat ; and, if convenient, change the location of his cage to a more cheerful place.

These comprise about all the diseases that the canary is subject to ; and we will here state, that all of the family of seed-eating birds have about the same ailments, and require similar treatment.

CUTTLE-FISH. — There is an impression, quite general, that the only use for cuttle-fish is as a “bill-sharpener ;” this is erroneous. The cuttle-fish is a mollusk caught in the China Sea, and is very largely used by all manufacturers of tooth-powder, its salty particles readily removing the tartar. All seed-eating birds are fond of this, its salty taste seeming to give them a great relish for food.

Birds, when proper care is taken of them, are rarely attacked with disease. If owners of feathered pets would first see that the cage is perfectly clean, and well supplied with plenty of gravel or gravel-paper for the bird to pick upon, and that the seed is of the very best quality, and that they are fed, and given a bath, at a regular hour daily, — then

birds, if kept from draughts of air, and no trash, such as sugar, candy, figs, raisins, cake, &c., fed them, will sing from ten to eleven months out of the year; which they always do with the poor families in Germany, who find it impossible to get such luxuries. It is only the wealthy and better classes that have so-called "poor luck with birds." And why? Because they kill them with kindness, — though it is very unkind to the bird.

I have often been told that a

BIRD WILL NOT BATHE, and asked how we can make it. In reply, I can only say that I have never yet, in an experience of nearly twenty-five years, seen a bird that will not bathe. True, some will not enter a bath-dish, as we would wish them to, and will persist in putting their heads into their drinking-cups or fountains instead, and, after wetting their head, push it through their feathers, and then, with their bill, thoroughly clean themselves; which is very like the person who uses the "wet end of a towel," instead of taking a proper ablution. For this there is no help; and we can only hope, that, with age, they will discover the beauties of a toilet which can only be arranged after a first-class bath.

"DO BIRDS BATHE WHILST MATED?" I can only say, that some do, and some do not. It is always well to give a bird its bath, and leave it to the bird's judgment whether to bathe or not.

SAFFRON AS A MEDICINE for birds seems to be almost in universal use, though why it is used is

more than the author has ever been able to ascertain from those using it, more than that "My folks used to use it;" and they presume that the bird required it. The medicinal property of saffron is diaphoretic, and used mostly to color and flavor other medicines. When chewed, it leaves a bitter taste in the mouth, though a pleasant aromatic flavor. It is not impossible that its bitter taste to the bird may give an increased appetite, which perhaps the bird needed, and in that way health is restored. The author, however, has discovered no medicinal property in it, excepting that of a cathartic; and, as such, it is very good. But quiet to the bird is the best remedy; and it is best obtained by covering the bird up quite closely on the first appearance of ailment.

REMEDIAL AGENTS. — We put up in envelopes simple remedies for the cure of the following complaints; all of which are known as "Holden's Bird Cure." Cure No. One, for diarrhœa; No. Two, for constipation; No. Three, for debility; No. Four, for moulting; No. Five, for asthma, and loss of voice. Either one of the above will be forwarded by mail, prepaid, on receipt of twenty-five cents. Or the five remedies mentioned above, and one package of German Insect Powder (see p. 19), will all be forwarded, prepaid, on receipt of one dollar and twenty-five cents.

As many who own birds have a desire to breed them, a little information may not be amiss to the new beginner.

Were you to visit one of the large breeding establishments in Germany, you would observe a quantity of rooms arranged very much after the style of the sleeping-apartments of a hotel. Each of the rooms is properly furnished with light, ventilation, a quantity of small trees, feeding-boxes, water for bathing and drinking, and on the sides of the room a quantity of nests, and the floor covered with fine sand to the depth of three or more inches. In this room are placed twenty or more male birds, and three times their number of females ; and from this large feminine family every male chooses his mate, — and, reader, don't blush, for some of them choose even three and four mates, — all of which will hatch their young peacefully, and live one large, happy family together.

The young birds (males) are taken at the age of six weeks, as they can then crack seed (and we will here remark, that, when they are fully feathered, they commence to warble ; that is, they fill their throats in the same manner as an old singing-bird : and this is the only way that male birds can be told from females when so very young), and placed in large cages, say twenty-five birds to a cage, and kept in rooms holding about twenty such cages until they are through moulting ; for a young bird, as soon as he is in full feather, commences to moult, or shed his body-feathers : his tail and wing feathers he sheds the second season. This moulting process requires about six weeks ; after which they are taken away from the sound of all singing canaries, into a

room having a small opening in the top ; and in the room above them is kept a nightingale, skylark, or some other fine whistling bird, the best of his species, who acts as instructor for the young birds. It is from this instructor they get these beautiful notes, the bow-trill, the bell-note, the flute, the water-note, &c., which are so much admired. At the age of six months they become adepts at singing ; and then the exportation to all parts of the civilized world commences.

AMERICANS RAISE BIRDS wholly for pleasure ; and it certainly is a pleasure. What greater amusement can be furnished children, and, in fact, children of a larger growth, than mating birds, and then rearing a nest of beautiful canaries?—to watch the busy weavers make their nest ; the constant care and attention given to it by the mother-bird during the season of “sitting,” who is so regularly relieved by her loving mate, who ever and anon covers the eggs while she is seeking food or rest? Alas! our little canary-bird has taught many a lesson to the human family ; and the constancy of a bird to its mate is rarely equalled by the lords of creation.

A SUITABLE CAGE FOR BREEDING can be either of wood, wired, or the ordinary japanned tin cage, or brass. Should you use an *old* wooden cage, it should be thoroughly scalded with hot soda-water, to kill all vermin, and then varnished over. The birds should have a nest—wire is the best—securely fastened into one corner of the cage, first covering the nest with canton, or cotton-and-wool flannel, and hung

up against the wall at least a foot above your head, and in a southern aspect if possible, and not moved until you are through breeding for the season.

There should always be placed in the cage, from a wall of some *very old building* that is being torn down, a piece of mortar to make egg-shells from ; as, without this, the female would lay soft-shell eggs.

In vain did the oldest of our English poets proclaim his mandate in our ears, saying, —

“Foules take heed of my sentence, I pray,
 And for your own ease in fordring of your need,
 As fast as I may speak, I will me speed :
 Ye know well how, on St. Valentine’s Day,
 By my statute, and through my governaunce,
 Ye do chuse your mates, and after flie away
 With him, as I move you with plesaunce.”

From the 14th of February to the middle of May, all birds have what is known as the

MATING FEVER. — This fever, or sexual desire, is the strongest during the latter part of April, and early in May ; and, if not mated, they sit moping with ruffled feathers, cease singing entirely, refuse their food, and often, in their silent sorrow, pine away and die. If their attention can be diverted from this “lovesickness,” it should always be done. The better cure is to mate your bird. If this is inconvenient, place him in the cheerful sunlight, tempt him with dainty morsels of food, talk and whistle to him ; and, if you have a friend who owns a bird, let your bird visit him, and cheerful company will soon restore him ; or a better way still is to leave him at a well kept bird-store.

A question often asked at bird-stores is,

“HOW DO YOU MATE A PAIR OF BIRDS?” — The reader is supposed to own a male canary. If such supposition be true, then go to a first-class bird-store, and buy a female canary and breeding-cage; and the very best way to mate a pair of birds is to place the female in the breeding-cage, and hang it up on one side of the room; and, *leaving* the male bird *in his cage*, hang him up on the other side, and *within sight* of her. If he sings and calls to her, and she calls back in return, as much as to say, “May I come in your cage?” then you can put them together; and, though they may quarrel at first, this will be only of short duration, and they will very soon mate.

“The tuneful choir in amorous strains
Accost their feathered loves;
While each fond mate, with equal pains,
The tender suit approves.”

IN MATING BIRDS, a young male and old female produce mostly male birds; and those of about the same age produce about equal proportions of both males and females.

A FEMALE CANARY WILL MATE with the following birds, and produce a very beautiful songster, which is known as a mule: the linnet, goldfinch, bulfinch, siskin, our native bobolink, indigo-bird, and other birds of a similar size; and the male from these birds is very highly prized on account of his beauty and song.

A hybrid variety is mentioned in a German work

as being a cross between a female bulfinch and a male canary; in form and plumage it somewhat resembles both parents, and is a delightful songster, not so loud as the canary, but with notes more soft and mellow. This is a very rare bird, it being difficult to breed and rear such.

TO PRODUCE A HANDSOME YELLOW BIRD, your male should be a jonquil, which is a deep yellow bird with almost an orange crown; and the female a mealy bird, which is a whitish yellow, and has the appearance of being frosted or powdered all over. A clear yellow male and a mealy female will usually produce a *pure yellow* bird; while a clear yellow male mated with a gray or green female will usually produce a very handsome mottled bird. A deep yellow or orange-colored male with a very dark-green female often produces the highly prized cinnamon bird.

After mating your birds, a period of only seven to eight days elapses before the female commences to lay; and she will lay from four to seven eggs, one each day, at about the same hour, and sit upon them for thirteen days, when the operation of hatching commences.

Dealers in birds are constantly visited by owners of feathered pets to seek information on a subject to which their human instinct should furnish the answer. This is particularly the case in breeding-season; and a question asked daily is, —

“MY BIRD IS EGG-BOUND: what shall I do for it?” A few questions from the dealer reveals the fact that the female has been fed upon dry seed, and food of

a clogging nature ; and the information given at once is, Feed your bird some green stuff or a piece of apple, thereby loosening it (which should have been done before mafing), and, carefully taking the bird out, rub the passage gently with warm sweet-oil. At times birds are egg-bound from having taken cold : should this be the case, give also the remedies for a cold.

BIRDS ARE HATCHED ONE EACH DAY, until all the eggs are hatched. If it should happen that one or more eggs remain in the nest, and do not hatch at the proper time, it would be well to take them out of the nest carefully, using for this purpose a tea-spoon so as not to handle them, and hold them before a strong light ; and, if there is the appearance of blood-veins, place them back carefully ; for they may yet be hatched. If, upon the other hand, the egg be clear and transparent, it can be thrown away as worthless. It is a rule in Europe to never throw away an egg until it has been laid at least twenty-one days.

From the time the young birds are born, the male bird helps feed them, if he is a good father, and so partially relieves the female. If he should at times seem quarrelsome with his mate, or show *too much attention* of a loving kind to her, it would be well to separate them, putting him in his own cage until the young birds are nearly feathered ; then, after they have perched a few nights, they can be removed to other cages, and the male returned, and another brood raised ; and the same operation repeated.

Cases have been known of raising seven broods in a season.

“ With cheerful hop from perch to spray,
 They sport along the meads;
 In social bliss together stray
 Where love or fancy leads.

Through spring's gay scenes each happy pair
 Their fluttering joys pursue ;
 Its various charms and produce share,
 Forever kind and true.”

Those who raise birds are often annoyed by the male, and sometimes by the female bird

EATING THE EGGS as soon as they are laid: this usually occurs from improper feeding. Birds that are mated require rich food; and this rich food should be given for three to four weeks previous to mating them. When this is done, it is very rare that the eggs are disturbed.

The richest and best food for your birds, in addition to their regular mixed seed, — *no hemp*, — should be the following: one hard-boiled egg — the whole egg — grated on a coarse horse-radish grater, and one common soft cracker, rolled fine with a rolling-pin, or carefully grated, and then mixed together, and fed to the birds in small quantities at least twice per day; and this food must be continued to the old birds until you are through breeding; and the same food must be continued to the

YOUNG BIRDS until they can crack seed, which they can do with ease at the age of six weeks. It is, however, an advantage to soak some rape-seed,

and put it in for the young birds as soon as they leave the nest.

Another source of great annoyance to bird-breeders is, that occasionally the old birds desert the young, and leave them to starve. This I never knew to occur where birds were placed in a suitable place, as described on p. 23, and always fed and cared for by the same person. It is the constant annoyance to which a bird is subjected that occasions this. It is usually the fault of those who have had this ill luck. They take great pride in the birds they are prospectively going to raise; and, as soon as they are from the egg, the cage is taken down on all occasions, and shown to every visitor; and, when it is too much trouble to take it down, the step-ladder, a chair, or table is brought into action in order to show up the bird family; and then the bird-dealers are asked the question, "Why did my old bird desert the young before they were a week old?" Those who have had this ill luck doubtless see wherein success in the future awaits them.

Occasionally there is no apparent cause for the old birds deserting the young. When such proves to be the case, and the old birds are very good ones, it is always well to bring the young up by hand, using the food described above, and using a quill with a small piece cut from one side, similar to the old-fashioned quill-pen. It can then be used as a spoon; and, with three or four such spoonfuls, feed them every hour; and not feed oftener than once an hour, using judgment in not over-feeding the birds. It is

always a good rule to take the nest from the cage, and keep the young birds in it, covering them over slightly until they are well feathered.

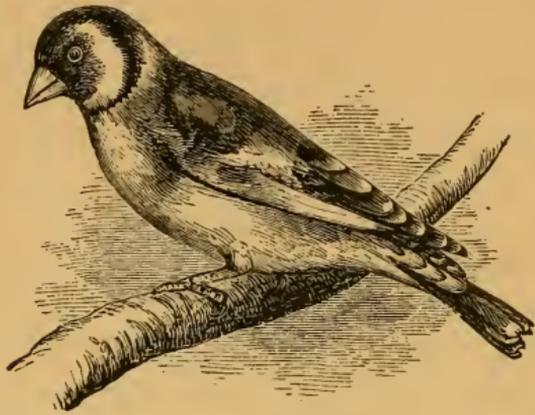
We are often asked the question, —

“DOES A YOUNG BIRD MOULT?” — Our answer is, Yes. A young bird is usually in full feather at the age of six weeks (we will here state, that, when he is four weeks old, he will swell up his throat, and try to warble; and by this you can tell the males from the females); and, when he is in full feather, he commences to moult, or shed his body-feathers. The wing and tail feathers he does not shed until the *second season*: this process is slow in a young bird, and usually requires about eight weeks to change all the body-feathers; during all of which time they should be fed, at least twice a week, on the hard-boiled egg and cracker, as described above, and kept out of all draughts of air. If your bird — the father of the young — is a good singer, the young birds will learn readily, and, at the age of six months, become fine songsters.

THE LONGBREED, OR FRENCH CANARY, has had his day, and is now “run out.” His high, square shoulders give him an ungainly appearance; and his great length and delicate frame make him a very weak bird, and not well adapted for the parlor; while in powers of song he is far inferior to the short, or German Canary, so generally admired the world over for his exquisite notes.

BEAUTIFUL BIRDS.

“ BIRDS, birds ! ye are beautiful things,
With your earth-treading feet, and your cloud-cleaving wings.
Where shall man wander, and where shall he dwell,
Beautiful birds, that ye come not as well ?
Ye have nests on the mountain all rugged and stark,
Ye have nests in the forest all tangled and dark ;
Ye build and ye brood 'neath the cottager's eaves,
And ye sleep on the sod 'mid the bonnie green leaves ;
Ye hide in the heather, ye lurk in the brake,
Ye dive in the sweet-flags that shadow the lake ;
Ye skim where the stream parts the orchard-decked land,
Ye dance where the foam sweeps the desolate strand.
Beautiful birds ! ye come thickly around
When the bud's on the branch, and the snow's on the ground ;
Ye come when the richest of roses flush out,
And ye come when the yellow leaf eddies about.
Beautiful birds ! how the schoolboy remembers
The warblers that chorussed his holiday tune, —
The robin that chirped in the frosty December,
The blackbird that whistled through flower-crownèd June.
That schoolboy remembers his holiday ramble,
When he pulled every blossom of palm he could see ;
When his finger was raised as he stopped in the bramble,
With ' Hark ! there's the cuckoo : how close he must be ! ' ”



THE GOLDFINCH.

“OH! what is so pretty, so cunning, so gay,
So daintily busy the livelong day,
As my little goldfinch, — beautiful pet, —
With his butterfly wings, and cap of jet?”

Far, far, from his native bowers of bloom,
He lives a prisoner, yet feels no gloom ;
For his merry glance and his sprightly song
Tell plainly as words that he fears no wrong.”

THE GOLDFINCH, of all parlor birds, is certainly one of the most delightful, alike for the beauty of his plumage, the excellence of his song, his proved docility, and remarkable cleverness. He is also very easily tamed, and is capable of great attachment to his owner; and may be taught various amusing tricks, such as dragging a little wagon up an inclined plane into his cage to supply himself with food, or to ring a bell whenever he requires attention, and to haul up water from a little well underneath the cage. All these he will learn very readily, and without any coercion.

Goldfinches have been known to live confined in a cage for sixteen or twenty years; and, though they may lose their bright colors, they retain their activity and cheerfulness of disposition. Their food, in their wild state, consists of all kinds of seeds, &c.: in a cage, they should be fed upon maw-seed. As their bill, though as sharp as a needle, is in young birds quite soft, and, although very fond of rape and canary seed, they cannot readily crack it until they are at least two years old, it would always be well to soak a little canary and rape for them, thereby softening the hull, and making it a matter of no trouble for them to crack; and occasionally, as a reward for some trick, or display of affection, a few crushed hemp-seed, which he should be made to take from the hand. Most wild birds, when captured, become in confinement sullen and dispirited: want of exercise and of a peculiar kind of food so alters the quality of the fluids, that fits and ailments

ensue ; and the bird mopes, and soon dies. Not so with the goldfinch : immediately after his capture he commences to feed on maw-seed (food which he could never have tasted before), frisk about the cage, and dress his plumage, without manifesting the least apparent regret for the loss of companions or liberty. His beauty, melody, and speedy reconciliation to confinement, render him a desirable companion ; and he is captured to cheer us with his manners and voice in airs and regions very different from his native thistly downs and apple-blossom bowers.

GOLDFINCH HAS DISEASES. — They are subject to epilepsy ; and sometimes, when closely confined, have swollen eyes. By anointing the eye with fresh butter, the ailment will be removed. They are greedy eaters, and are sometimes apt to overdo the matter. A cold bath will soon put them to rights.

GOLDFINCH MULES. — The goldfinch will mate with the canary ; and the mule-birds produced are frequently very beautiful, and also good singers. The mixture, so to speak, of the song of the two birds, is particularly sweet, fine, and pleasant to the ear. In breeding mule-birds, it is true that it requires some patience, and also good judgment, for the successful rearing of choice mules ; but, when a satisfactory result is obtained, it is well worth the pains.

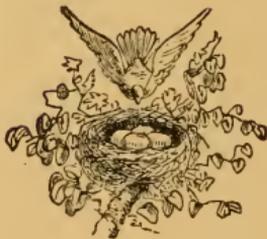
As an occasional experiment, the attempt to obtain birds of this kind will have its charms and attractions for many ; but for ourselves we confess we care little for mules in any shape or form.

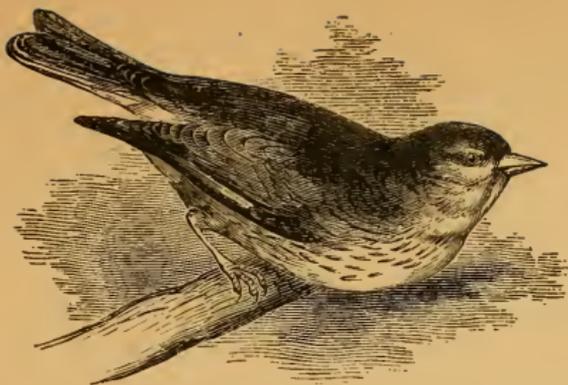
A wise Providence has set the mark of sterility on all such heterogenous offspring ; and while it has thus said, as though in displeasure at the attempt to transgress its laws, "Hitherto shalt thou go, and no farther," — on the other hand, we read on the first page of Holy Writ how, when God commanded the water to bring forth abundantly every living creature that moveth, and every winged fowl, each was to be "after *his* kind." In this way alone he bestowed his blessing upon them, and commanded them thus to replenish the earth. "What God hath joined together let no man put asunder ;" and what he hath put asunder let no man attempt to bring together.

"God spake : the waters teem with life,
The tenants of the floods ;
The many-colored winged birds
Dart quickly through the woods.
High rushes the eagle
On fiery wings ;
Low hid in the valley,
The nightingale sings.

"God spake : the lion, bull, and horse
Spring from the moistened clay ;
While round the breast of Mother Earth
Bees hum, and lambkins play.
They give life to the mountain,
They swarm on the plain,
But their eyes fixed on earth
Must forever remain.

“ God spake : he looked on earth and heaven
With mild and gracious eye :
In his own image man he made,
And gave him dignity.
He springs from the dust,
The lord of the earth :
The chorus of heaven
Exult at his birth.
And now creation’s work was ended ;
Man raised his head, he spoke ;
The day of rest by God ordained —
The sabbath morning — broke.”





THE LINNET.

I wadna gie the *lintie's* sang,
Sae merry on the broomy lea,
For all the harps that ever rang
In all the halls of minstrelsie.
Mair dear to me, where bush or breer
Among the pathless heather grows,
The *lintie's* wild sweet note to hear,
As on the ev'nin' breeze it flows.

Burns.

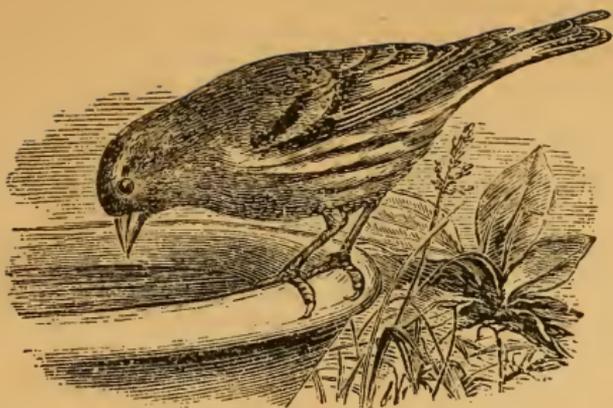
THE LINNET, either gray or brown, is a beautiful songster, and is very generally kept throughout Europe. He is of a hardy constitution, easily domesticated, a most lovely and constant singer, uttering many very sweet, flute-like notes; and if fed principally on canary and rape seed, with occasionally a *very few* hemp-seed, will remain in health.

These two birds are spoken of as two distinct varieties, but in reality they are not; for the same bird which at one year old, when it has no red feathers in the head, is a *gray linnet*, becomes after the second moulting, when the red of the breast takes a golden hue from the yellowish-white margins of the

feathers, a *yellow linnet*; and in the spring of the third year, when the forehead is blood red, the feathers on the side of the breast the same color, and a ferruginous tinge prevails over the whole body, the bird comes out in all his glory as a *rose linnet*. By and by, when age steals on, or sickness or confinement tell upon the constitution of the sweet songster, he falls from his high estate; his plumage changes, and he is a brown, gray, or yellow linnet, as the case may be. There is scarcely any bird, perhaps, that puts on so many different dresses in the course of his life as our little linnet; there is scarcely any telling what changes each moult will produce: that is, in a state of confinement; for in a natural state the bird will go through its regular gradations of plumage in a natural manner, and one may safely judge of his age by his dress; but in an artificial state it is not so.

He is fond of bathing, and we might say of two kinds: first, like the skylark, in plenty of gravel (of which there must be an abundance in the cage); and, second, in water, and a bathing-dish must be given daily. His diseases are similar to all seed-eating birds in confinement; and the treatment must be the same, for which see article on Sick Birds.

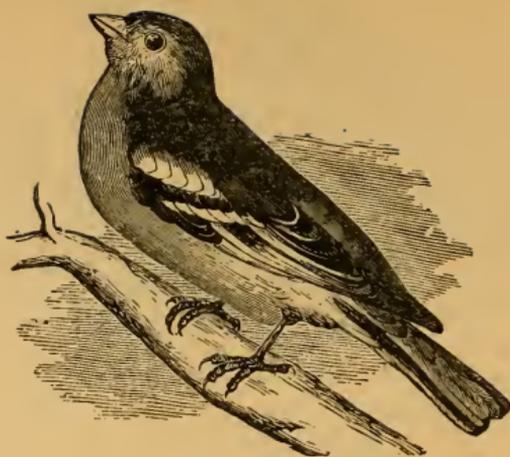
LINNET MULES. — The male linnet will sometimes mate with the canary; but the mules are not nearly so beautiful as the offspring of the goldfinch and canary, though they are generally good songsters, and highly prized on that account.



THE SISKIN.

THE SISKIN, sometimes called the black-headed thistlefinch, in point of beauty will bear no comparison with the goldfinch, although possessing this recommendation in a high degree. The prevailing color of plumage is a yellowish green, elegantly marked and shaded with black; a neat little bird, with a short tail, and stout beak; the top of the head is altogether black, hence one of its names.

This, as well as the goldfinch and linnet, is one of the species used in crossing with the canary. In Europe a favorite cage-bird, and really a beautifully plumaged one. Their song is short and low, though very agreeable, and they imitate with facility the notes of various birds. Caged, they should be fed on maw-seed mixed with crushed hemp. As they are a greedy bird, care must be taken not to feed them too much. In health or sickness their treatment, except feeding, should be the same as the canary.



THE CHAFFINCH.

“ The low, sweet singing of a bird,
The murmur of the breeze, —
How soft would glide our fleeting hours,
Blest as the sunshine and the flowers,
And calm as summer seas !”

Amelia.

THE CHAFFINCH. — Who that has ever read the letter of Michelet to his good wife, in his work entitled “The Bird,” could have failed to read his vivid description of a poor blind chaffinch that was offered for sale in the great bird auction rooms in Paris? This bird had been a pet; and poverty in the family had compelled his sale. This bird is one of the many European song-birds, and for the sweet-

ness of his song, as well as for his sleek plumage, should be generally kept.

In Germany chaffinches are so highly valued that very high prices are given for them if they possess a fine song; a common workman will give sixteen shillings for a bird whose notes he considers good, and will frequently live upon bread and water until he can save money to purchase the desired object.

His wild notes are soft and mellow, but have little variety: they are first heard very early in the year; for Chaffy seems at all times ambitious to open the vernal chorus, and to make a start before any other of the feathered musicians have got their instruments in order. A curious circumstance connected with the natural history of chaffinches is, that the males and females separate during the winter, and resort to different parts of the country: hence the scientific name *calcebs*, or the bachelor, applied to this bird. In Europe they have singing matches amongst their birds, and the chaffinch that sings the greatest number of perfect notes within a given time gains the prize for his owner. A perfect note is represented by the syllables *toll-loll-loll-chick-wee-do*; and if a bird slurs them over, or stops at *chick* or *wee*, the note is not counted.

They are extremely docile, and can be trained, or taught to perform many amusing tricks. Their food should be the same as the canary; adding, however, in the spring, a few hemp-seed to induce them to sing more freely.

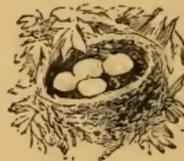
.
 "THE ballad-singers and the troubadours,
 The street-musicians of the heavenly city, —
 The birds, who make sweet music for us all
 In our dark hours, as David did for Saul.

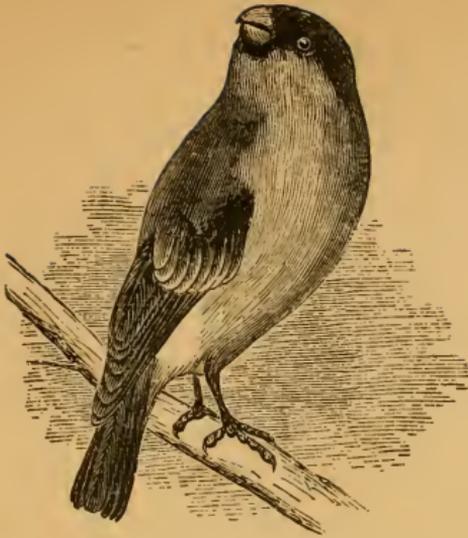
The thrush that carols at the dawn of day
 From the green steeples of the piny wood ;
 The oriole in the elm ; the noisy jay,
 Jargoning like a foreigner at his food ;
 The bluebird balanced on some topmost spray,
 Flooding with melody the neighborhood ;
 Linnet and meadow-lark, and all the throng
 That dwell in nests, and have the gift of song.

.
 Whose household words are songs in many keys,
 Sweeter than instrument of man e'er caught.
 Whose habitations in the tree-tops even
 Are half-way houses on the road to heaven.

Think, every morning when the sun peeps through
 The dim, leaf-latticed windows of the grove,
 How jubilant the happy birds renew
 Their old, melodious madrigals of love !"

.
Longfellow.





THE BULFINCH.

BULFINCH. — This bird has no natural song, but is gifted with the ability of imitating, with an astonishing accuracy, in a sweet and flutelike tone, almost any air that is whistled, or played to them on an instrument. This has made him a great favorite among all lovers of birds.

In Germany, particularly in Hesse and Saxony, a large number of these birds are taught, and by the dealers brought to various parts of the world. The raising and teaching is generally accomplished by shoemakers, tailors, and weavers, who, being confined to their rooms, are thus enabled to take care of them. The teaching begins from the time they are taken into the house. The tune that it is intended they should learn is whistled to them — *whistling* is always preferred, as instruments are generally too shrill — several times a day, more particularly in the morning and evening. The tune must be whistled always in the same key, and no other tune whistled in the hearing of the bird, which is kept

in rather a dark place during the process of training.

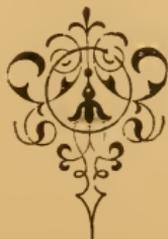
Taken as they are when quite young, and brought up by hand, they are always tame, and will take food from the hand of any one, and may be trained to sing or pipe their tune at command: they very soon learn to know the person who feeds them,—and we will here remark that the same person *should always feed them*,—and will pipe their tune, making beautiful and elegant gestures, now moving the body, and then the head, first to the right, then to the left, spreading the tail like a fan, and seemingly “fanning” with it, when they commence with a short flourish, or prelude, and pipe their tune through perfectly.

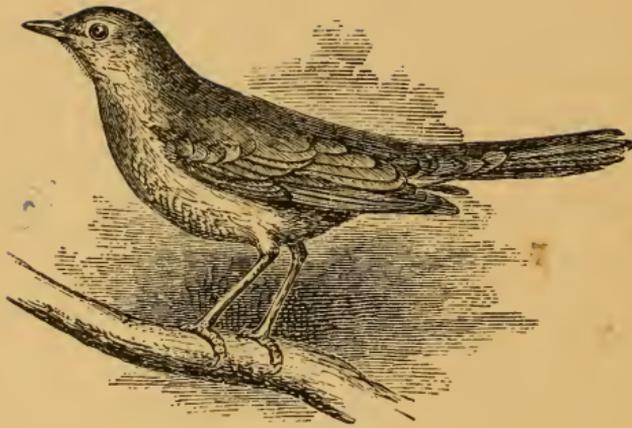
The bulfinch should be fed principally on summer rape-seed, to which may be added a little canary, and occasionally one or two hemp-seed, as a reward for piping his tune. Sugar, sweet-cakes, or such-like delicacies, spoil their taste, and should not be given to them. A little greens in the summer, or sweet apple in the winter, is very wholesome, *both of which must be fresh*. As their claws grow very fast, and also very hooking, they must be cut at least twice a year. They must always be handled very gently, as they are easily frightened, and harsh treatment often causes their death.

These birds usually moult in the month of September; and, as they shed their feathers very rapidly,—sometimes becoming *almost bare* in one day,—great care must be taken to keep them from all

draughts of air; and, in addition to their regular seed, a little of the yolk of a hard-boiled egg should be fed them at least three times a week.

The bulfinch has diseases. These, however, are usually caused by improper care; for if the bird be fed and watered regularly every day, at the same hour and *by the same person*, and plenty of dry sand freely used, the cause of disease is greatly reduced. Occasionally these birds are troubled with a diarrhœa, and can be greatly relieved, and many times a permanent cure effected, by placing a rusty nail in their drinking-water: a nail should also be placed in their drinking-water during moulting season; and, should a bird be troubled with the reverse of this complaint, — costiveness, — a piece of sweet apple, a little chickweed, lettuce, or any green food, will usually afford full relief. Occasionally this bird will appear dumpish, sitting all day upon his perch with ruffled feathers: the best mode of treatment is to give him a supply of maw, or what is sometimes called poppy-seed, which will in most cases quickly restore him to his usual spirits.





THE NIGHTINGALE.

“Night from her ebon throne stoops down to listen
To this the sweetest songster of the grove ;
And pulses thrill, and eyes with rapture glisten,
As forth she pours her plaintive song of love.”

THIS bird is decidedly the most melodious of all singing-birds. The compass, flexibility, prodigious variety, and harmony of his voice, make him the

greatest favorite of the lovers of the beauty of nature. Coleridge wrote thus of this bird: —

“The merry nightingale,
That crowds and hurries and precipitates,
With fast, thick warble, his delicious notes,
As if he were fearful that an April night
Would be too short for him to utter forth
His love-chant, and disburden his full soul
Of all its music.”

He will sometimes dwell for several seconds on a strain composed of only two or three melancholy tones, beginning in an under-voice, and swelling it gradually by a most superb crescendo to the highest point of strength, then ending it by a dying cadence. His very striking musical talent, surpassing all other singing-birds, has acquired for him the name of the king of songsters. His food is the same as the American mocking-bird.

When caged and well treated, they will sing for six or eight months during the year: some begin in December, some in January, and some in February, and sing till the month of July.

Improper feeding, and other causes, have seemed, so far, to render it almost an impossibility to keep one of these birds more than a few months; and, for the benefit of the lovers of this bird, we will give an extract from a letter from Mr. George B. Pearson of Beverly, Mass. He says, —

“As I write you, four P.M., Jan. 7, 1875, my nightingale is singing sweetly. He commenced singing

early in December, 1873; and he did not cease to sing until September, 1874. He moults with no trouble at all, and since I have owned him has not had a sick hour. Your books will show you that I purchased him in the winter of 1872; and you did not advise me to buy him, but to 'wait for a better bird later in the season.'

"I cannot agree with high authorities, that the nightingale is a difficult bird to keep in the cage, if you know how to take care of him. With the very best of intentions, most persons starve their nightingales. The bird is an enormous eater. Less than half the size of a mocking-bird, he will eat double the quantity of food that the mocking-bird will eat; and he requires it. But he is a very patient bird, and will not, as will both the mocking-bird and black-cap, tell you by restless motion or cail that he needs food. You may never fear to give a nightingale as much food as he will eat.

"His daily bread and butter should be the prepared mocking-bird's food. Vary this food with grated carrot and ants' eggs, hard-boiled egg and ants' eggs, yellow turnip and ants' eggs, elderberries and ants' eggs (all of these half and half each), and ants' eggs moistened with water, alone by themselves, and you have a bill of fare that will give you delicious song.

"Can you obtain meal-worms, give your bird as many as you can afford to give him. He will sing all the better for every worm eaten. He is not a delicate bird, as, for example, the mocking-bird, if you

feed him on the right food. He is the king of songsters, and he has the king of digestive organs. My bird sings from sunrise to sunset, and never a note at any other hour. When silent, a meal-worm will make him sing during the above-named hours. He will sing very loud till he silences my mocking-bird, and so loud that his song is disagreeable ; but when he has silenced my other birds, thirteen in number, he will delight you for hours.

“I have always been very particular to keep his cage, perches, and feeding-dish very clean ; have used gravel (sand) in the cage freely, and given him his bath daily ; and I see no reason why, if the same rule is followed, that any bird cannot be kept in health and song for many years.”

4





THE BLACK-CAP.

“SWEET warblers of the sunny hours,
Forever on the wing,
I love them as I love the flowers,
The sunlight, and the spring.
They come like pleasant memories
In summer’s joyous time,
And sing their gushing melodies
As I would sing a rhyme.

In the green and quiet places,
Where the golden sunlight falls,
We sit with smiling faces
To list their silver calls.
And, when their holy anthems
Come pealing through the air,
Our hearts leap forth to meet them
With a blessing and a prayer.

Amid the morning’s fragrant dew,
Amid the mists of even,
They warble on as if they drew
Their music down from heaven.
How sweetly sounds each mellow note
Beneath the moon’s pale ray,
When dying zephyrs rise and float
Like lovers’ sighs away !”

THE BLACK-CAP, sometimes called the mock nightingale, possesses, in the opinion of some, powers of song equal to those of the more universally acknowledged leader of the sylvan choir. He is a most delightful singer; and his notes, though quite different, are no less admirable than the nightingale's, and are heard throughout the year, during the whole day, except in the moulting season. This may also be called the English mocking-bird, as he readily catches the notes of any other songster which he chances to hear. Sweet says that he has heard the black-cap imitate the nightingale so exactly that even his practised ear was deceived.

If you love real bird-music, procure a black-cap at any cost; for he will make the whole house ring again, his song is so full, so sweet, so deep and loud, and so enriched with a variety of oily, silvery modulations, especially that long, soft shake, which, though it sinks gradually into the lowest note a bird can utter, is heard as distinctly as the louder tones; and then just as you think it is about to die away, and you begin to anticipate the silence that must follow, higher and higher swells the song to the loftiest burst of melody, and you feel as if you wouldn't part with the bird for twenty times his weight in gold. When singing he distends his little throat, while the whole body quivers with delight, telling that he feels as much pleasure as he gives to the listener. Gilbert White, whose "Natural History of Selborne" every boy ought to read for the sake of its beautiful

descriptions of the habits of birds and animals, speaking of the black-cap, says his "note has such a wild sweetness that it always brings to my mind those lines in a song in Shakspeare's 'As You Like It:'—

'And tune his merry note
Unto the sweet bird's throat.'

And I have no doubt in my own mind that Shakspeare was listening to the singing of the black-cap, or called to memory his notes, as he had often heard them when a boy in the green fields that spread around his native place, when he composed that beautiful and simple song which begins with, —

"Under the greenwood tree,
Who loves to lie with me."

The back and wings of the black-cap are of an olive gray, throat and breast of a silvery gray, belly and vent white, sides of the head and back of the neck ash color, and the top of head black as night, whence the name. Caged, he requires the same food as all soft-bill birds, with the addition of elderberries, of which he is very fond. The black-cap, and most of the genus, suffer from tender feet, and swellings or warts upon them: a little cold cream will soon cure these.



TO A SKY-LARK.

ETHEREAL minstrel ! pilgrim of the sky !
Dost thou despise the earth where cares abound ?
Or, while the wings aspire, are heart and eye
Both with thy nest upon the dewy ground ?—
Thy nest, which thou canst drop into at will,
Those quivering wings composed, that music still.

Leave to the nightingale her shady wood :
A privacy of glorious light is thine ;
Whence thou dost pour upon the world a flood
Of harmony, with instinct more divine.
Type of the wise who soar, but never roam,
True to the kindred points of heaven and home.

Wordsworth.

THIS beautiful warbler is spread all over Europe, and has the most peculiar manner of flying of any of the feathered tribe, his movement being invariably upwards in a perpendicular line ; after leaving his grassy abode, beginning his melodious song, which he continues unceasingly till nearly out of sight, looking like a mere speck, towards the heavens, — and even then you may hear his sweet voice dying away as if in the clouds, — he descends in like manner, still continuing to gratify his hearers below with his own peculiar melody till within a short distance from his nest ; then silently alighting, hiding himself in the grass, fearing, as if by instinct, some straggling wanderers were watching his movements, to find out the spot to “rob a bird’s-nest,” when he creeps along, quite unseen, to visit his home and little family. He is the bird that Shakspeare fancied went singing up into the very gates of heaven ; the minstrel of the sky, who makes all the gold and silver pillars in cloud-land echo when he warbles in his great star-roofed skyey hall. This is the bird that sleeps beside the daisies, and among the gentle lambs ; that makes a nest in any hole in the ground, the print of a horse’s or bullock’s hoof serving as well as any thing else in which to deposit the five greenish-white brown spotted eggs. The sky-lark will readily imitate the songs of other birds, and also learn tunes, and in confinement sings during half the year, and may be tamed so as to come and eat from the hand.

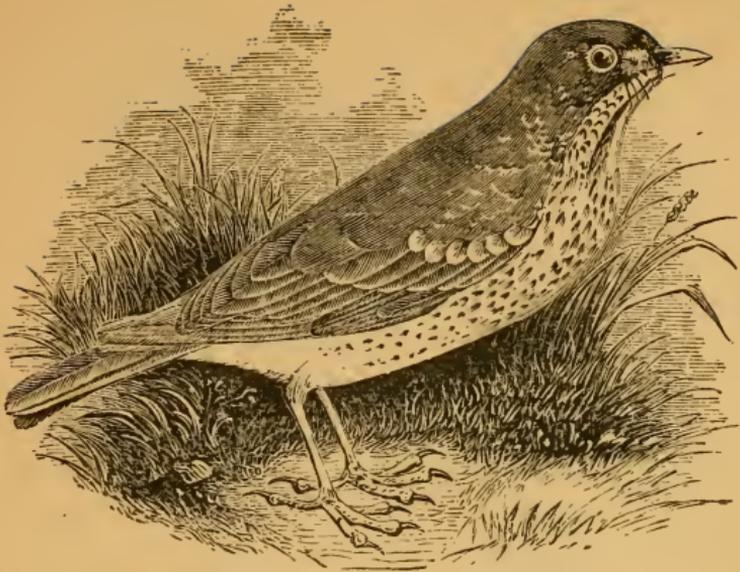


THE WOOD-LARK.

“ What time the timorous hare trips forth to feed,
When the scared owl skims round the grassy mead,
Then high in air, and poised upon his wings,
Unseen the soft enamoured wood-lark sings.”

THE WOOD-LARK is also a beautiful bird, and resembles the sky-lark in color, but is smaller. If he cannot soar so high nor sing so sweetly as the sky-lark, he can do what the latter can't; and that is, either sit and sing on the branch of a tree, or have a fly, and carry his music along with him. But, though so partial to perching on a branch, like the sky-lark he builds on the ground. Some bird-fanciers say he possesses a more musical and sonorous

note than most other singing-birds ; but his imitative faculties are not very good, for, unless reared from the nest near some other birds, he will not learn their strains. His song is very much prized, and ranked by many amateurs next to the nightingale's : he sings far into the night. This bird is more easily tamed than the sky-lark, and appears more happy in captivity. He is of an affectionate disposition, and, if pains are taken to gain his affection, will become much attached to his owner ; but he is a delicate bird, and dainty in appetite, and requires variety in food. Most of the wood-larks perch, therefore he must have a square perch put into his cage ; but, if not used, it should be taken away. He must have a fresh-cut turf, if possible, once a week, and plenty of gravel and chalk. It is very rare that either of the larks will take a bath, much preferring — like domestic fowls — to dust themselves ; and for this reason sand or gravel must be used very freely, and always kept in the cage to the depth of not less than half an inch. The lark requires what is known as the lark-cage, and will not do well in any other. It is a low-priced cage, and can always be purchased at any bird-store. The food of the sky and wood lark is the same as the American mocking-bird. If the bird is unwell, or becomes loose, grate a little cheese into his food : some licorice in his water will also be of service, as likewise a spider occasionally.



THE THRUSH.

But when the morning broke, and the green woods
Were all alive with birds, with what a clear
And ravishing sweetness sang the plaintive thrush !
I love to hear his delicate rich voice,
Chanting through all the gloomy day, when loud
Amid the trees is dropping the big rain,
And gray mists wrap the hills ; for aye the sweeter
His song is when the day is sad and dark.

Longfellow.

THE SONG-THRUSH is a most melodious singer, being gifted with a more powerful tone than any of the feathered choristers of the European forest. This speckled musician pleases with delight, and

satisfies, as it were, the very soul of the listener. In the wild state he sings only during the spring ; but, when caged and properly treated, will sing eight or nine months of the year, commencing about December or January. It is for this reason, as well as for his beautiful song, that the thrush is so much kept in cages, and domesticated.

He must have a large cage, well strewn with coarse sand or gravel, and should be well supplied with water for drinking and bathing ; but his bath should be taken away when used, as the bird is liable to cramp. The food and water should be put outside of the cage, if possible. The thrush will live many years in confinement, if properly fed and cared for. The ailment to which he is most subject is constipation. A large spider is the best remedy ; abundance of pure fresh air, and a change of diet, should be given. The male and female are so much alike in color, that it is very difficult to distinguish them : the female is a little smaller, and has not quite such a glossy brown plumage as the male ; so that the purchaser of a thrush should make sure of the sex by hearing the song. The male has great imitative powers, and will readily learn tunes played on wind instruments or whistled to him. Food same as preceding.



THE BLACKBIRD.

“O blackbird! sing me something well:
While all the neighbors shoot thee round,
I keep smooth plats of fruitful ground,
Where thou may'st warble, eat, and dwell.”

Tennyson.

THE BLACKBIRD, whose plumage is of a pure velvety black, with an orange-yellow bill, is a fine songster. The notes, though not so various as those of the thrush, still are of a more sweet, flute-like tone. Besides this, he possesses the ability of imitating airs which are whistled to him: these he executes with great perfection, and is said never to forget a tune once learned. An anecdote is told of

one who had been taught to whistle an air, which, on hearing played with variations on the piano, affronted him so exceedingly that he hissed and fluttered his wings till the performance stopped, and then gave his version of the air, whistling it all through as he had learned it. The same bird fell into the hands of a lady whose custom it was to have the Evening Hymn sung at the conclusion of family prayers. He caught the tune, and always accompanied their voices, and from that time regularly whistled it every evening at the same hour, long after he had passed into another family, and continued the practice for the remainder of his life. The blackbird will also learn to imitate the songs of other birds, the crowing of a cock, the gobble of a turkey, and in his wild state will often mimic them.

He is very fond of bathing, and may have a good deep bath daily in the sunshine ; but his cage should not be left wet, as he is subject to cramp like the thrush : there should be plenty of dry sand or gravel on the floor.

He will live in captivity from twelve to sixteen years, and sing in a loud and joyous tone the whole year, except during the moulting season.

When in a wild state, this bird sings only three months in the year ; when caged, nearly throughout the year. His food and treatment are the same as for the mocking-bird.



ROBIN REDBREAST.

“ Good-by, good-by to summer,
For summer’s nearly done ;
The garden smiling faintly,
Cool breezes in the sun ;
The thrushes now are silent,
Our swallows flown away,
But Robin’s here in coat of brown,
And scarlet breast-knot gay.
Robin, Robin Redbreast,
O Robin dear !
Robin sings so sweetly
In the falling of the year ! ”

THE ENGLISH ROBIN REDBREAST. — This bird is very popular in Europe, particularly in England, being lively and very handsome. He is easily tamed, so as to be let out of his cage, and play about a room.

He has, by fearless conduct, earned golden opinions from all classes of men. Every nation seems

to protect him. Even the American redbreast lives unharmed, possibly on account of his connection with his English relation, whose oft-told charity is mentioned in the good old ballad of the "Babes in the Wood" whom Robin Redbreast "painfully" did bury beneath the leaves : —

"Leaves of all hues, gold, red, and green,
Ruins of summer bowers ;
A thousand times more beautiful
Than all her choicest flowers."

In the winter, when the berries are gone, insects dead, and the worms hidden under the hard-frozen soil, then the robin flies for refuge to the habitations of man for shelter and food. It is very amusing to see the half-trusting, half-fearful look with which he hops to the window-sill for the first time. After a while he becomes bold, and taps at the window, if the expected crumbs are not thrown out. He possesses a sweet warbling song, is very fond of bathing, and should therefore be daily provided with a bath ; but, when allowed to fly about a room, care must be taken not to leave a pitcher or any large vessel with water within reach, as he is very apt to try to bathe in it, and frequently gets drowned. Being a soft-bill bird, his food is the same as the preceding birds.



THE STARLING.

THE STARLING.—His natural song is rather poor ; but he has a wonderfully good memory. He will learn to repeat several airs that are played to him, with great ease ; nay, more : he learns to pronounce words very distinctly, or imitate the song of other birds, or any sounds when repeatedly heard. Besides this, he becomes very tame in the house, so as to be let out of the cage, and walk about the room. He soon knows all the persons in the house, is always gay and wakeful, and as docile and cunning as a dog. His food and treatment may be the same as that of the mocking-bird. He is a very hardy bird, and will sometimes attain the age of fifteen years.



THE OLD-WORLD SPARROW.

BY WM. CULLEN BRYANT.

We hear the note of a stranger bird,
That ne'er till now in our land was heard :
A winged settler has taken his place
With Teutons, and men of the Celtic race :
He has followed their path to our hemisphere, —
The Old-World sparrow at last is here.

He meets not here, as beyond the main,
The fowler's snare and the poisoned grain ;
But snug-built homes on the friendly tree,
And grubs for his chirping family
Are strewn when the winter fields are drear ;
For the Old-World sparrow is welcome here.

The insect legions that sting our fruit,
 And strip the leaves from the growing shoot, —
 A swarming, skulking, ravenous tribe,
 Which Harris and Fitch so well describe,
 But cannot destroy, — may quail with fear ;
 For the Old-World sparrow, their foe, is here.

The apricot in the summer ray
 May ripen now on the loaded spray ;
 And the nectarine on the garden-walk
 Keep firm its hold on the parent stalk ;
 And the plum its fragrant fruitage rear ;
 For the Old-World sparrow, their friend, is here.

That pest of gardens — the little Turk
 Who signs with the crescent his wicked work,
 And causes the half-grown fruit to fall —
 Shall be seized and swallowed in spite of all
 His sly devices of cunning and fear ;
 For the Old-World sparrow, his foe, is here.

And the army-worm and the Hessian fly
 And the dreaded canker-worm shall die ;
 And the thrip and slug and fruit-moth seek
 In vain to escape that busy beak ;
 And fairer harvests shall crown the year ;
 For the Old-World sparrow at last is here.

THE ENGLISH SPARROW, now so commonly seen in all of the parks, and, in fact, streets, of New York, Brooklyn, Jersey City, and Hoboken, was first introduced by the Messrs. Reiche in 1858. The cost of the first importation was partly paid by Mr. W. H. Scheiffellin, who had a quantity of them set free in the garden of his palatial residence in Madison Square, New-York City. The quantity of sparrows

now seen around the Fifth-Avenue Hotel are descendants of this first importation. The remainder of the sparrows were given their liberty by Mr. Henry Reiche in the Central Park. How they have increased and multiplied, we need not inform our readers who are in the habit of visiting the metropolis of America, and how faithfully they have devoured all worms and insects that formerly ruined the beautiful trees; and we might say they have been the saving of the fruit-crop the whole length of the Hudson River. Gardens which had not a currant in them for years, and apple-orchards that had ceased to bear, were all in fine bearing order the same season the sparrows were introduced. The question is often asked, "Do these birds destroy seed after planting?" We answer, No: they are an insect-eating bird, and never eat or scratch seed. They are consequently the farmer's best friend.

In reply to a question, "How many broods do they raise in a year?" In New York and vicinity they raise four broods in a season, and will doubtless do the same in any part of the country; and they never rear less than four to a brood, oftentimes six birds. If our farmers and gardeners knew how destructive they were to insects, and how crops would be increased by their introduction, the subject would receive earnest consideration. The sparrows now sold are all raised in New York and its vicinity, and of course are thoroughly acclimated; so no fears need be entertained of their dying from change of climate.

To those who propose introducing this bird, either private individuals, or town or city authorities, we would suggest the propriety of sending their orders during the months of January and February. The sparrows ordered at that time will be ready for delivery at a date not later than the 15th of April. At this time they begin mating, and are engaged in building their nests, and consequently cannot be caught and transported to other places without danger to them, and loss of life, which, if persisted in, would speedily exterminate all the sparrows which have cost America immense sums of money. Lovers of sparrows who desire introducing them, and have neglected ordering during the months of January and February, and who do not reside north of Portland, can order at any time in the summer, and receive them during the months of October and November. The birds sent at this time are hardy, and require but little care ; the main point being to supply them with soft food, such as stale bread, &c. If the snow should remain for a considerable length of time, it would be well to sweep a piece of ground, thereby enabling them to procure gravel, which is of the utmost importance for proper digestion and consequent health.





THE GRAY PARROT.

“ BEHIND us at our evening meal
The gray bird ate his fill,
Swung downward by a single claw,
And wiped his hookèd bill.

He shook his wings and crimson tail,
And set his head aslant,
And, in his sharp, impatient way,
Asked, ‘ What does Charlie want ? ’

‘Fie, silly bird!’ I answered, ‘tuck
 Your head beneath your wing,
 And go to sleep;’ — but o’er and o’er
 He asked the self-same thing.

Then, smiling, to myself I said : —
 How like are men and birds !
 We all are saying what he says,
 In action or in words.”

Whittier.

GRAY PARROT, which, by its docility and affectionate conduct towards those who treat it kindly, and its wonderful power of imitating the human voice, has, with all its awkwardness, a very strong hold upon the human family. The very best species of the parrot is the African, which has a fine ashen-gray color, with a black bill, white face, and scarlet tail. These birds, either male or female, make excellent talkers: they can also be taught a tune, which they will sing or whistle perfectly; and while they will seemingly forget many words and sentences which they have once pronounced perfectly, yet they never forget a song if it is once thoroughly taught them. The next parrot in attractive qualities is the green, with white over his bill. This bird makes an excellent talker, is equally as docile as the gray, and attains a great age. Another species very much admired is the yellow-head parrot. This, as well as several other varieties, is universally kept and admired. The parrot, like all other birds, is liable to disease; but with care it can be kept in nearly perfect health. In order to take

proper care of a bird, cleanliness first always, then place plenty of gravel in the cage, feed at a regular and stated time, always feeding the most simple and plain or coarse food. In its native country it feeds upon the seeds of the sunflower and the various grains, and with its exercise in its wild state does not grow too fleshy. Caged, it must be fed vastly different. A good food for parrots is cold boiled potatoes, stale bread or crackers soaked sometimes in water, sometimes in milk, and sometimes in coffee, using the coffee just as it is leached or boiled, without the addition of milk or sugar. Bread soaked in coffee is a delicate morsel, and one of which a parrot is very fond. They also like canary-seed, unhulled rice, cracked corn, and hemp-seed. Of the two latter, *very little* should be given them; and they should *never have fed to them greasy food* from the table,—sugar, cake, candy, or any such trash. A piece of apple or a little green stuff *occasionally* does no harm. Peanuts, forming a part of their native food, can always be given them. These rules followed, your parrot should be healthy. There are but two diseases that alike annoy the parrot and its owner; and a constant inquiry at bird-stores is, “What makes my parrot pull his feathers out?” The reply invariably is, “You feed your bird too highly.” And we will here remark that the parrot, like almost the majority of the human family, is afflicted with some kind of a skin disease, and the feeding of rich food drives this disease to the surface, causing an eruption, and a

consequent itching sensation, which the parrot relieves by pulling out its feathers. The only remedy for parrots addicted to this habit is to feed them on either raw or boiled carrots and well-roasted peanuts. These are both cooling foods, being entirely free from grease of any kind. They also require showering with cold water from three to six times per day; and, as they should only be showered with a spray of water, it would be well to put a piece of rubber tube on the end of a faucet, and, holding the finger nearly close across the end, cause the water to fall in a spray upon the bird. When it is not convenient to thus shower a bird, a mouthful of water blown over the bird will answer every purpose. Should your parrot be attacked with diarrhœa (which, if he is properly cared for, he will not be), he should have all green food, fruit, &c., taken away, and be fed upon milk which has been boiled away, say at least a quarter, and thickened with the *least mite* of Graham flour, so called, with the addition of a *very, very* little red pepper. If this does not effect a cure in from one to three days, then give him stale bread soaked in warm sherry-wine, which has had a very little burnt sugar added thereto,—not, however, giving this until the other has failed.

Even these remedies usually efficacious have failed at the time when a parrot was shedding his feathers; and whole peppers and spices of various kinds are given the bird, but without the desired effect. The last remedy for this painful disease is laudanum or

paregoric. If the latter, five drops in a teaspoon of milk, poured down the bird's throat, and the dose repeated every half-hour until relief comes, when discontinue, and feed a little plain food, and keep the bird covered up in a shawl or piece of blanket, and in a warm place, until again restored to health.

If the bird has sore feet, occasioned only by a dirty cage, and not using sand freely, first put sand into the cage, then wash his feet in lukewarm water, first adding a little tincture of arnica thereto. If your parrot is troubled with costiveness, green fruit and exercise outside the cage is the best remedy. If gouty, which they will show by their feet swelling, and a partial closing of the claws, immerse the feet in quite warm water once or more per day, and soak them for ten or fifteen minutes; dry thoroughly, and in a week or ten days a cure will be effected. Sometimes with old cases it takes even longer. If your bird is troubled with fits, a sprinkling with cold water usually effects a cure. Should you be troubled with lice on your parrot, you can wash him with a strong solution of tobacco, made by steeping a little chewing-tobacco in water, or a very little flower of sulphur can be sprinkled among the feathers.

These comprise about all the ailments of the parrot family; and the remedies here laid down for their treatment also apply to the dwarf parrot, or what are more commonly known as paroquets: but with care (not too much care) you will be relieved of these troublesome complaints.



THE AUSTRALIAN PAROQUET.

PAROQUET is the name generally given to the smaller kinds of parrots, from which birds the species placed under this head do not otherwise differ than in size : the term is somewhat arbitrarily applied, so that you will frequently have the same bird called at one time a parrot, at another a paroquet, as might be expected, there being no exact boundary line to divide the larger from the lesser kinds.

THE AUSTRALIAN PAROQUET, a very beautiful and eccentric bird, has but recently been introduced into this country; yet he possesses so many desirable qualifications that he has at once become a well-known member of the "bird family." This bird is a native of the island from whence the name is derived; and in a wild state leads a retired and sequestered life, sometimes alone, and again in pairs. During mating season they are found in pairs, and in immense numbers, the male and female each singing to the other incessantly. As they are inhabitants of the ground, where they build their nests, they are rarely found in trees. Their plumage is a beautiful shade of green, with a few brownish or black feathers upon the back, and the feathers of the head a bright lemon color; which, added to the bright blue spots around the head and neck, make them a beautiful and attractive bird. They easily become domesticated to cage-life, and are capable of being taught many amusing tricks. They are hardy birds, and easily endure the cold winters of the north, the author once having placed a pair where water froze to the depth of an inch, and this, too, without any perceptible injury to the birds. They should be fed wholly upon canary-seed, and allowed frequent baths. With this treatment they will continue in perfect health for many years.



THE TROOPIAL.

THE SOUTH AMERICAN TROOPIAL has a beautiful rich plumage, and looks very much like our American golden robin, or what is known as the Baltimore oriole ; the chief difference being that he is much larger in size, with the orange of the body more of a yellow. Few, if any, birds have a natural song at once so sweet and powerful as this ; and none have a nicer ear and a more retentive memory. Take a young male, and instruct him carefully by means of a flageolet or flute, and he will not only repeat the air played, but imitate the very tones of the instru-

ment with astonishing fidelity. We have heard troopials thus instructed whose strain seemed to us the very perfection of melody, such as only a skilful performer could produce ; and such a one as this is really a valuable bird. Give us the troopial with the loud sweet song morning and evening, the vesper and matin chants, and his beautiful plumes seeming veritable sunbeams of the tropics, diffusing light and warmth around.

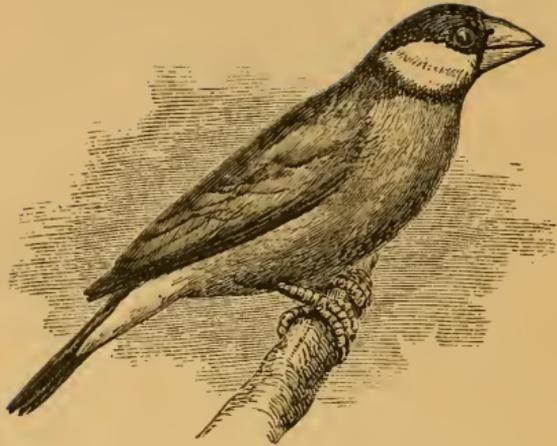
They are extremely active, and very graceful in their movements, and require a cage the same size that a mocking-bird is usually confined in. In their wild state their food consists of insects and berries ; caged, they require the same food and treatment as the mocking-bird. They may also be brought up without much difficulty upon white bread soaked in milk, and raw lean meat scraped fine, and mixed with it. There are few wild birds, which, when confined, become so thoroughly domesticated as the troopial. They can be taught with little trouble to accept food from the hand, to fly to and perch upon the one who regularly attends to their daily requirements ; while their extreme docility is a fact proven beyond a doubt.





THE BRAZILIAN CARDINAL.

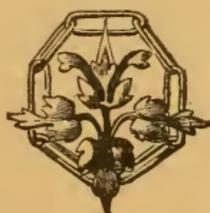
THE BRAZILIAN CARDINAL is one of the beautiful whistling birds of the tropics, and is justly admired as a cage-bird. The back is dark gray, the quill-feathers of the wings are of a darker shade of the same color, and the tail is nearly black ; the head, crest, cheeks, and throat are bright red of an orange hue, deepest on the chest, where it ends in a point ; the lower part of the body is grayish white, and the feet and legs are black ; the strong beak is dusky gray ; the crest is pointed like that of the Virginia nightingale, and is raised and depressed at pleasure. His brilliant scarlet head forms a beautiful contrast with the snowy white of his body. In addition to his beautiful plumage, he is also gifted with powers of song. If fed upon unhulled rice and canary-seed, and given plenty of bathing water, he will live many years in confinement.



THE JAVA SPARROW.

THE JAVA SPARROW takes his name from the Java Islands, where they abound in immense numbers. Their chief recommendation is the great neatness and beauty of plumage ; their glossy black head, with clear white cheeks, and delicate rose-colored bill, that looks like a piece of wax-work, and their light-slate or almost ashen-gray body, forming one of the richest combinations of colors ; the plumage being so neat and smooth that the feathers all seem to fit into each other ; and all appear covered with bloom

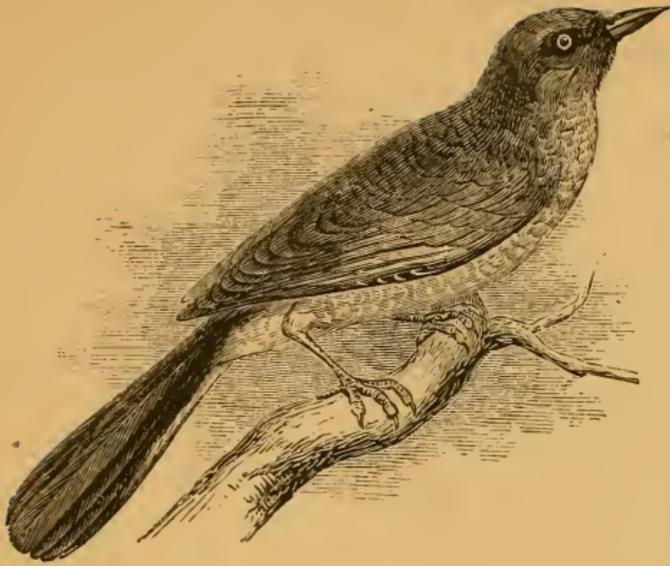
like that upon plums. They are very affectionate birds, and happy in confinement; and occasionally one is seen that can in reality be called a bird of song. They can be taught a variety of amusing tricks; and, perhaps more than any other caged bird, will perform their tricks at command, with the seeming fear of a child. The pairs are much attached to each other, and are continually dressing each other's feathers. They are generally fed upon canary and millet seed, but in a wild state live chiefly on rice. At a bird exhibition at Crystal Palace, London, a few years since, a pair of Java sparrows were exhibited, entirely white, with the black head and throat and rose-colored beak of the gray Java sparrow, and with the plumage equally soft and downy; and I was told that they were most beautiful birds.



TO THE MOCKING-BIRD.

BY R. H. WILDE.

WINGED mimic of the woods ! thou motley fool !
Who shall thy gay buffoonery describe ?
Thine ever-ready notes of ridicule
Pursue thy fellows still with jest and jibe.
Wit, sophist, songster, *Yorick* of thy tribe,
Thou sportive satirist of Nature's school,
To thee the palm of scoffing we ascribe,
Arch-mocker and mad Abbot of misrule !
For such thou art by day ; but all night long
Thou pourest a soft, sweet, pensive, solemn strain,
As if thou didst in this thy moonlight song
Like to the melancholy *Jacques* complain, —
Musing on falsehood, folly, vice, and wrong,
And sighing for thy motley coat again.



THE MOCKING BIRD.

THE AMERICAN MOCKING-BIRD. — This unrivalled songster, though he may not possess the melodious sweetness of the nightingale and lark, or the beautiful pipe of the blackbird, yet in himself he unites all the excellences to a greater extent than any other living bird. Who, on passing through the streets of any large city on a bright night in June, has not heard the shrill scream of the eagle, the mourning note of the turtle-dove, the delicate warble of the blue-bird, the cackling of the domestic hen, followed by the quarrelling of a dozen or more *grimalkins*, each seeming to vie with the other as to the quantity of noise; then the cry of the

katydid, the mellow whistle of the cardinal, the grunt of the maternal porker searching for her juveniles, the creaking of some rusty swing-sign-board, the pipe of the canary, and the cry of some lost puppy wailing in the midnight air, and each succeeding the other with such rapidity, that the listener wonders if such a variety can come from so small an object. All this the mocking-bird is capable of. The mocking-bird is a general favorite, and deserves to be attentively cared for. He is particular, and should be fed and watered at the same time *every day*. His cage should be large, and kept very clean, with plenty of gravel. His food should be

REICHE'S PREPARED MOCKING-BIRD FOOD. — All other mocking-bird foods are only worthless imitations of this, and, in many cases, have been found to be very injurious to the bird. It is in bottles all ready for use. In boxes, it will need the addition of grated carrot. The box food is the cheapest and best. A good way is to change every few weeks from one to the other. An addition of ants' eggs occasionally with their food (Chas. Reiche & Bro. are the *only importers* of them) is very beneficial; a little sweet apple grated up with the food gives it a very fine flavor, and often restores the appetite when it seems quite poor.

A SUPPLY of INSECTS should be gathered during the proper season, such as flies, grasshoppers, spiders, &c., and put loosely in a paper bag, and hung up to dry; and, when used in winter, they should

have boiling water poured over them, which will soften them, and make them as palatable as if they were still alive. A grasshopper thus prepared is a Thanksgiving dinner to your bird. Zante currants, the same as used for cake, washed clean, soaked over night, and *wiped dry*, also make a dainty morsel.

MEAL-WORMS give a bird a great deal of life, and, being the richest of food, should only be given occasionally, say six to ten worms in a month. Every owner of a soft-bill bird should raise a stock of meal-worms. The process is very simple, and consists in first taking an old box or jar, and placing therein a quantity of bran or meal, — in fact, any farinaceous meal, — a few biscuit or part of a loaf of bread, a few pieces of leather from an old, worn-out boot or shoe, and some woollen rags ; place therein a few meal-worms, — say fifty, — and then cover the opening tightly with a thick cloth. If this cloth is moistened with water occasionally, they will breed faster ; and, if not disturbed, at the expiration of from four to six months, you will have thousands.

MOCKING-BIRDS HAVE DISEASES. — Should your bird's feathers stand loosely all over, and he still seem healthful, give him cooling food only. Should your bird be dumpish and stupid, a few spiders will usually cure him. Should he refuse to eat, examine his tongue, and you probably will find on it a horny scale: this must be removed with great care, as, if allowed to remain, your bird will surely die. To remove this scale, hold the bird on his back firmly

with one hand, and, with the finger-nail of the other hand, gently peel this scale from the tongue. Carefully watch the bird's droppings, and immediately apply the cure for illness.

DIARRHŒA IS CURED by a very rusty nail placed in his drinking-cup, and the reverse by insect food, or water with a few ants' eggs soaked in it. Blindness is not to be cured; and the bird thus attacked will shortly die, its spirit being broken by the illness.

During the month of May, sometimes earlier, all birds have what is called the

MATING FEVER. — They grow melancholy, allow their feathers to grow rough, cease to "plume themselves" before retiring, waste away, and die. All lovers of birds must have observed that a bird never goes to sleep without arranging, just before dark, every feather. The uniformity and tediousness of a bird's life, confined in a cage, that was not bred in one, is the cause of this mating-fever. They have an ungratified sensual desire. In many instances they forget their inclination for freedom and a mate, by simply changing the cage, and hanging near a window, where their time will be taken up in watching new surroundings.

MOCKING-BIRD LICE are a great annoyance to a bird, and should be gotten rid of. This is best done by placing the bird in another perfectly clean cage; then steep some fine-cut chewing tobacco in water, and, with a very weak solution, wash the bird very thoroughly, particularly under the wings; then place a white cloth or towel on top of the cage,

and they will crawl up, and in a few days you will be rid of them. Clean your cage very thoroughly before you replace your bird therein; and, with proper attention to cleanliness, you will not again be troubled with them.

Experience has taught us that nine-tenths of the ailments of birds are caused by improper feeding. Bits of sugar, candy, daily green food, grapes, meat from the table, — all are bad for any bird. Birds need plain food, regularly given. Seed-birds require seed free from dust; other birds, food mixed daily in clean vessels. A bath should be given the mocking-bird daily; and the vessel *should be removed* from the cage when the bird has bathed. You can soon teach any bird to bathe directly when you give him his bath, if you give it to him at the *same hour* each day. If irregular yourself, the bird will contract the same habit.

These remarks on the mocking-bird will also apply to the thrush, starling, lark, nightingale, robin, black-cap, and, in fact, all the family of soft-bill birds. In doctoring your sick bird, ascertain as nearly as possible what his complaint is, and apply the remedy; if it does not succeed, try another. Birds have been known to be at the point of death with costiveness, when a small spider has been forced down their throats, and a large knitting-needle, dipped into oil, inserted into the passage as an injection, and the bird caused to fly a few feet, when immediate relief followed, and in a few hours the bird was again in song.



THE GROSBEAK.

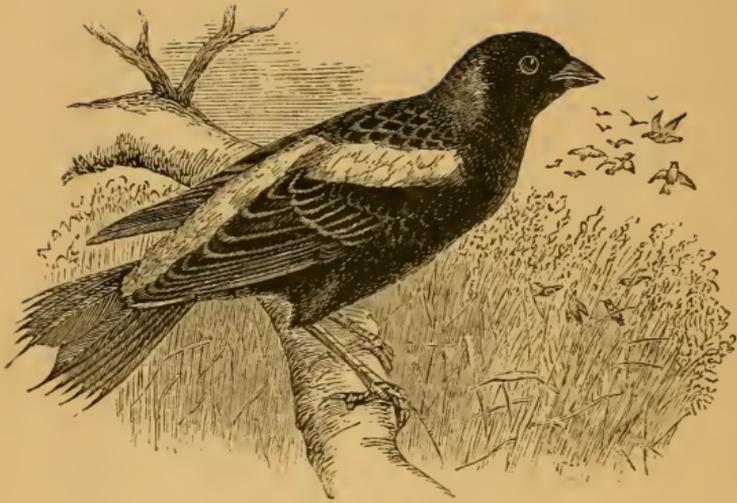
“ How, when morning softly blushes,
At my window sitting near,
Hear I, from the alder-bushes,
Grosbeaks' notes, and songs of thrushes,
Welcoming the opening year !

While the amorous doves are cooing,
Swallows darting here and there,
Dusky martins twittering, wooing,
Swift their flying mates pursuing
Through the soft and humid air.”

“And there a song-bird built his nest,
Of slender twigs and moss and clay,
And trilled from out his carmine breast, —
His happy breast, —
The livelong day.”

THE ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK, though a very elegant bird, is but little known; yet few of our domestic birds much surpass him in sweetness of song, or beauty of plumage. He sings by night as well as by day, and the notes are very clear and mellow. His great rarity accounts for the fact that he is so seldom seen caged; yet no bird can be more highly prized; the bright carmine breast, and deep black and snowy white body, forming such a rich contrast. Caged, he becomes very tame in a short space of time, and, being well contented in confinement, lives many years. He usually keeps in the best of health if fed upon nothing but canary-seed. If hemp or unhulled rice (unless necessary) is fed, he will eat until it is with difficulty that he can move from the bottom of the cage.



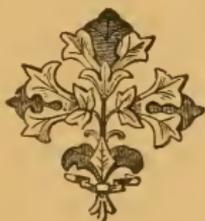


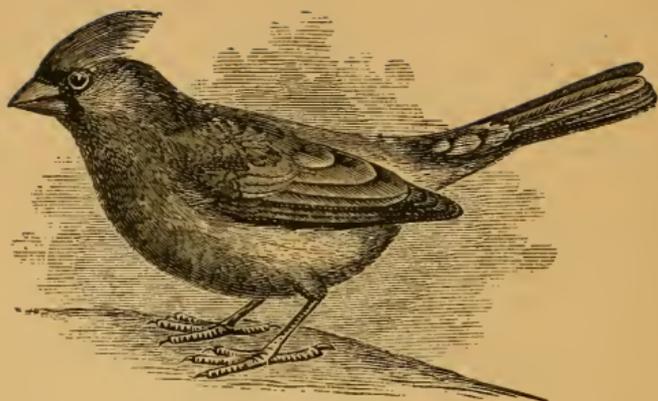
THE BOBOLINK.

Merrily swinging on brier and weed,
Near to the nest of his little dame,
Over the mountain, river, and mead,
Robert of Lincoln is telling his name :
Bob-o'-link, bob-o'-link,
Spink, spank, spink ;
Snug and safe is that nest of ours,
Hidden among the summer flowers,
Chee, chee, chee !

Bryant.

THE BOBOLINK received his name from a peculiar song of his own, in which he expresses very distinctly the words "*bob-o-link*" several times in succession. They are found all over the United States in the summer season, in great numbers, but migrate southerly when cold weather approaches. Their song is a confused, merry jingle of notes, of about the quality of the canary, but without any method whatever. They are easily domesticated to cage-life, and, when fed on nothing but canary-seed (no hemp), will sing about eight months of the year. They are hardy, and will live many years. The author owned one that was sent to the World's Fair in 1851, and, after taking the first prize in Europe, came safely back to America.





THE VIRGINIA NIGHTINGALE.

“Give me but
Something whereunto I may bind my heart,
Something to love, to rest upon, to clasp
Affection’s tendrils round.”

Mrs. Hemans.

THE VIRGINIA NIGHTINGALE, sometimes called the Virginia red-bird, sometimes the cardinal, is a native of the Southern States, and one of the handsomest birds of the New World. His color is of a brilliant red, with the exception of the throat and the part round the beak, which are black. The head is ornamented with a tuft, which he is capable of raising, giving a very commanding appearance. Together

with his beautiful plumage, this bird is gifted with a very sweet, pleasing song, or rather whistle, which sounds almost like the playing of a flageolet, being very pleasant to the ear. He is very hardy, and easily taken care of. He is also very tender-hearted, and kind in feeding young birds even of a different species, when placed in the same cage. One belonging to an old woman at Washington earned for his mistress a large sum of money by rearing a number of young birds of other species placed under his charge. He should be fed with a mixture of canary and hemp seed, and rough (unhulled) rice, to which may be added a little fresh green food, or a piece of apple occasionally. When properly treated, this bird often attains the age of fifteen years; though he will fade away from the beautiful scarlet to a delicate shade of pink. A lady who has had a pet Virginia nightingale for some years says he is still in the highest health and beauty; she feeds him upon canary-seed, giving him a few hemp-seeds, four or five meal-worms, or spiders, grubs, or caterpillars every day. He is fond of Spanish nuts, almonds, walnuts, and Indian corn, but cannot crack the nuts. A piece of salt and a lump of chalk are always kept in his cage, and she gives him opportunity for a daily bath. The salt causes the bird to retain his brilliancy, and the chalk keeps him regular.



THE AMERICAN LINNET.

“ Some humble heart is sore and sick with grief,
And straight thou comest with thy gentle song,
To wile the sufferer from its hate or wrong,
By bringing Nature’s love to his relief.
Thou charmest by the sick child’s window long,
Till aching pain itself be wooed to sleep ;
And, when away have vanished flower and leaf,
Thy lonely, wailing voice for them doth weep, —
Linnet, wild linnet !

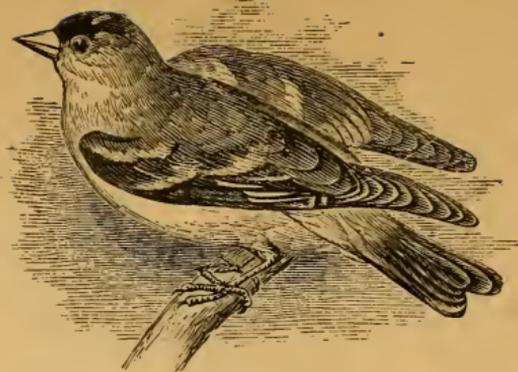
God saw how much of woe and grief and care
Man’s faults and follies on the earth would make ;
And thee, sweet singer, for His creature’s sake,
He sent to warble wildly everywhere,
And by our souls to love to wake.

O blessed wandering spirit ! unto thee
Pure hearts are knit, as unto things too fair
And good and beautiful of earth to be, —
Linnet, wild linnet !”

Nicholl.

THE RED LINNET, a beautiful singing, or we might say whistling bird; is one that should be as universally kept as the canary. His song is equally as sweet; and he will sing for ten months of the year, or the whole season, excepting during the time of moulting. The song consists of a variety of low, sweet-sounding notes, which are never harsh to the ear; and if kept near other birds, the power of imitation being very good, he will soon add many beautiful notes to the already sweet song. In confinement he becomes very tame, and, if fed sparingly, will live a number of years. He should be fed exclusively on rape and canary seed, and, at times, a *short allowance* of that. If hemp-seed is fed, very soon he has a giddiness followed by epilepsy, and shortly after by death. He is fond of bathing, of two kinds; first, like the sky-lark, in plenty of gravel, and second, in water; and a bath must be given daily.

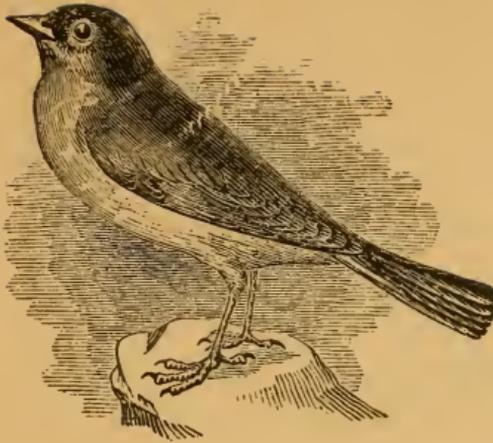




THE AMERICAN YELLOW-BIRD.

“ Blooming trees, and bubbling springs !
Bless me, how that wild-bird sings ! ”

THE AMERICAN YELLOW-BIRD, or what in reality is the American goldfinch, is a beautiful lemon-colored bird with a black cap and black and white wings, and has always been a favorite with everybody. He is a pretty thing to look at, and has many graceful attitudes when jumping about in a cage ; or, as we once heard a countrywoman say, who was a great lover of birds, “ He has such a many winning ways with him, that one can’t help liking him, if even we try.” Then to say nothing of his singing, although that is very pleasant to listen to, — a little deficient in variety perhaps, not so quick in picking up tunes as a few other birds, — still he can do no end of things which better singers cannot do ; and, in a wild state, his song has a brisk, cheerful, heart-stirring ring. Thousands are caught every season by means of trap-cages, using almost any bird for a decoy. If fed upon maw, millet, and a little canary-seed (the two latter should be soaked a little), and otherwise treated as a canary, he has been known to live ten years in confinement.



THE NONPAREIL.

“A merry welcome to thee, glittering bird!
 Lover of summer flowers and sunny things!
A night hath passed since my young buds have heard
 The music of thy rainbow-colored wings,—
Wings, that flash sparkles out where'er they quiver,
Like sudden sunlight rushing o'er a river.”

THE NONPAREIL is what his name indicates,—
“without an equal ;” being one of the most beautiful
cage-birds, and needs only to be seen to be admired.
He is called by many authors the “painted finch”
or “painted bunting,” and is also spoken of by
Buffon as “the pope,” on account of his beautiful
violet hood. I have a beautiful specimen of the
bird, which at the present moment has a violet head

and neck, a red circle round the eyes, the iris brown, the beak and feet brown, the upper part of the back yellowish-green, the lower part of the back, and the throat, chest, and whole under part of the body, as well as the upper tail-coverts, of a bright red ; the wing-coverts are green, the quills reddish-brown tinged with green ; the tail is reddish-brown. He is about the size of the English robin, and very much resembles that bird in his attitudes and characteristics ; and his song, though not powerful, is very agreeable. He is fed upon canary and millet seed, and is exceedingly fond of flies and spiders, which he ought to have to keep him in health. If I offer him one, he darts across the cage to seize it, and takes it from my hand fearlessly ; and, when allowed to fly about the room, will catch flies for himself, either pouncing upon them in the window, or taking them on the wing in the course of a rapid dash across the room. He is a sociable bird, and very inquisitive, hopping about on the table, and examining everything he sees ; and, when tired of his sudden flights about the room, will go to a vase of flowers placed before a mirror, and warble away to his image reflected in the glass. This bird is very fond of bathing, and should therefore be daily provided with a bath ; but, when allowed to fly about a room, care must be taken not to leave a pitcher, or any large vessel with water, within his reach, as he is very apt to attempt to bathe, and might get drowned.



THE SONG SPARROW.

“ A sparrow lights upon a bough,
And says, ‘ I’ll eat my fill here now ;
’Twill make me vigorous of wing,
And give me strength of voice to sing.’ ”

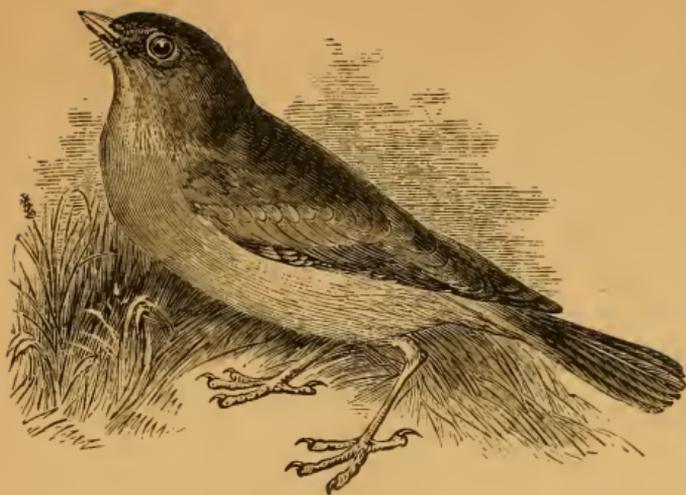
THE SONG SPARROW is seldom seen caged, probably on account of the plainness of his wardrobe. He has a song, though a short one, with quite a variety of notes, commencing very much like the admired water-note of the canary. This he will repeat many times in succession, and also an endless number of times a day. He is a playful bird, and hours can be pleasantly passed in watching his antics. Caged, he should be fed the same as the canary.



THE INDIGO BIRD.

“ Welcome tidings thou dost bring,
Little harbinger of spring.”

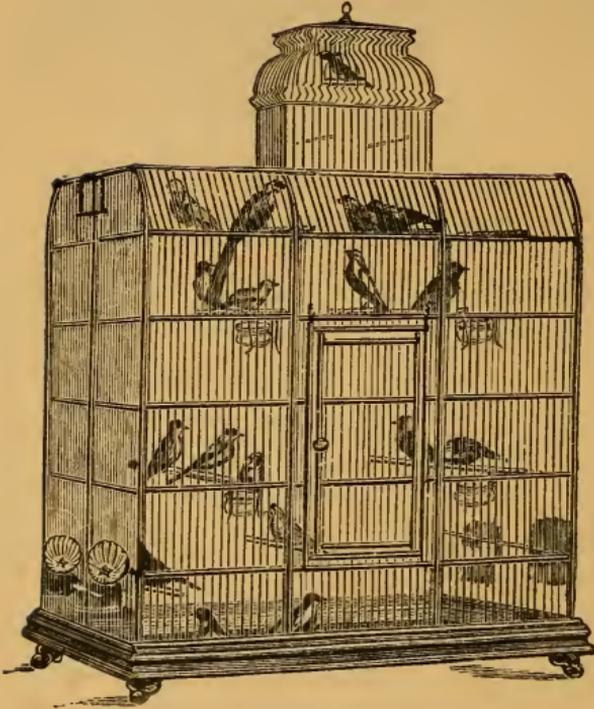
THE INDIGO BIRD is one of America's sweet-voiced warblers, a native of our own sunny South, visiting the Northern States when warm weather has fairly established itself. His color is a beautiful shade of indigo blue, and size the same as the canary. His song, though short, is quite agreeable, and by many considered very sweet. He will become very tame, and live many years in confinement. If fed upon nothing but canary, millet, and rape seed, with occasionally a little green stuff, with the addition of a bath daily, he will keep in excellent condition and song.



THE AMERICAN ROBIN.

THE AMERICAN ROBIN, from his proved docility, and power to imitate even tunes that may be taught him when young, is becoming a favorite for the cage. When taken from the nest and brought up by hand, and consequently tame, he can in a short space of time be taught a tune of considerable length, which he will whistle with accuracy, and in its accomplishment exhibit considerable musical ability. The golden robin, sometimes called the Baltimore oriole, sometimes fire-bird, and several other names in different parts of the Union, is very similar in appearance to the South American troopial ; being, however, but two-thirds its size, and not of as hardy constitution, nor has he the capacity for learning tricks. His song is a low, sweet, mellow whistle. He is, however, kept more for beauty of plumage than song. In confinement he should be treated the same as a mocking-bird.

AVIARY



FOR COLLECTION OF BIRDS.

Price \$24.

FINCHES FOR THE AVIARY. — These pretty little creatures are charming pets for the drawing-room, and of the utmost interest to the lover of birds. They are kept more particularly for their beauty of plumage. They are thoroughly happy in each other's society, and sit all together in a row, on a long perch, packed as closely as possible, caressing and pluming each other. There are many varieties; and they may be classed under the general terms of

WAXBILLS AND AVADAVATS. — Chief among the many, we would mention the waxbills, which do not, as a general rule, sing any thing like a song; but they chirp considerably, and it is a soft, pleasant warble. The orange-cheeked waxbill is a beautiful smooth little bird, always as neat as possible, with every feather in its place, vermilion beak, gray head, neck and throat brown. The female is about the same in general appearance. The zebra, or orange-breasted waxbill, is quite small, but very pleasing; and, as he is scarcely three inches long, he is considered desirable. The St. Helena waxbills are considerably larger, being about four inches and a half in length. A remarkable feature of this species is, that all the feathers have transverse, blackish, wavy lines over them, and look very soft and silky. The gray-blue is of delicate slate-color over the whole body, with silvery-white spots on the sides. The courdon bleu, or, as some call this well-known finch, crimson-eared waxbill, is also an African bird, and one of great beauty. The male has a soft, pleasing song, and is usually to be heard

cooing, as if for his own amusement. This little fellow has a peculiar habit of singing with a bit of twine, or something which he can hold, in his bill. If he can find a piece of cotton, or a stalk of any kind, he will hop about his cage, and sing to his utmost. The spice bird, also known as the "nutmeg" and "cinnamon bird," and described by some authors under the name of "gowry" or "gowry grosbeak." These birds are somewhat larger than the African finches, and are equally entertaining. They are of various colors, but are generally found with the head, neck, throat, and upper part of the body a rich brown, the breast and sides white, wings and tail brown. The male has a peculiar song, which will hardly attract attention, save that the female regards it as pleasing; for she always places her head close to her mate's while he is singing, and is evidently unwilling to lose a single note. The silverbill, or quaker bird, somewhat resembles the spice bird in shape and size. The male has a pretty warbling song, and he will often dance upon his perch, as if keeping time to his melody. When kept in couples, they become very affectionate, and devote the greater part of their time to preening and caressing each other. There is also an Indian silverbill; but they are not as common, though occasionally they can be found. The red-tailed finch is also a pretty bird, having a vermilion beak. The wings, back, and head are grayish, the breast nearly the same color, dotted with whitish spots; the under part of the body a pale straw color;

the tail a bright red. The maie has an agreeable song. The amandava finch is a native of India. They are somewhat smaller than the St. Helena waxbill. As they vary somewhat in color, and as it is not until they are two or three years old that they come to their perfect plumage, it is somewhat difficult to describe their appearance so that it would be of use to those in search of this charming little warbler. As a rule, the best birds have the head and under part of the body a bright red, with an occasional black feather; the back a light brown, and the tail black. The fire finch bears a strong resemblance to the avadavats, at certain seasons of the year. It is somewhat larger, but has little or no song. They are kept particularly for their beauty and cheerful disposition. The saffron finch is in many respects similar to the canary, though not quite as large. In point of color, however, the finch is more desirable, as the shades are of brighter tints. These birds come from Brazil, and are greatly sought after for the aviary, as they are of the most sociable disposition, and live in the utmost agreement with their comrades. The Cuba and negro finch have recently been introduced into this market, and with a good degree of success; also the Queenisland or Rockhampton finches, which are brought from Australia. The banded finch is another choice bird, and one which will speedily become a favorite. The whole body is of a rich chestnut-brown, both above and below; the upper and under tail coverts white, and the tail black. The dia-

mond sparrow, or "spotted-sided finch," is also a native of Australia. It is a short, stout bird, somewhat larger than the St. Helena waxbill. The under part of the body is white, and the sides under the wings quite black, with oblong white spots; the lower part of the back and upper tail-feathers are of a deep carmine. They have the utmost desire to catch flies, and, if allowed the liberty of a room, will rush to the window, and remain by the hour catching them. They can be made remarkably tame, and can be trusted without their cage to a considerable extent. Their song is limited. The cut-throat sparrow, sometimes called "Indian sparrow," or "fascinated finch," is about half the size of an English sparrow. It is of a delicate grayish-fawn color, spangled with white spots. They have a soft, delicate twitter, which can scarcely be called a song. The "little doctor" is from the South-American ports. The plumage of the male is of a beautiful shade of bluish-black, with an occasional white spot. They have a habit of sitting in the middle of their perch, and holding up one foot, singing to each other for hours. They can easily be tamed. There are numerous other varieties, including the magpie finch, celestial, negro, nuns, both black and white capped, &c., &c. These birds can be kept in one cage, and indeed they are miserable without companions; and, if two birds of different species lose their respective mates, they are almost sure to console themselves and to consort together. They should be fed upon millet-seed, and given a bath

daily ; but great care should be taken that they are kept in a warm room, and, if possible, in the warm rays of the sun. When moulting, a pinch of Cayenne pepper, sprinkled on the sand in the bottom of the cage, once or twice a week, will be found beneficial. They are fond of the sun, and delight to bask in its warmth ; but care must be taken not to leave them exposed to cold draughts or the dampness of the night air. With the above precautions, all these birds can be kept in cages for many years.

THE PARADISE WHYDAH BIRD is a well-known cage-bird, and one of great beauty. Some fanciers have given this bird the name of "the widow," from its quiet manner and its general color of plumage. The name is really that of a kingdom on the east coast of Africa. The great beauty of the paradise whydah bird is in its curiously-formed tail, the two centre-feathers of which are very broad, and about four inches long: the outer feathers are in some cases from thirteen to sixteen inches in length, broad in the centre, and tapering down to a delicate point. These birds are easily kept in aviaries, and in Southern France they have been bred in cages. The shaft-tailed whydah is a smaller and much more delicate bird: the tail is entirely different from the paradise whydah, yet quite as interesting. It is short and fan-shaped; the body of the middle feathers is extended into naked quills, which are about seven or eight inches long. The song of this species is of excellent quality. The weavers are a most companionable bird: they are brought from

Africa, India, and parts of the Asiatic islands. Their weaving instincts are exhibited upon every possible occasion : they will gather every piece of thread, blade of grass, or whatever of that nature may come in their way, and weave it into the wires of their cage after the most fantastic fashion. One could pass the entire day watching the workings of these ingenious and industrious little fellows. If their friends do not provide for their weaving wants, they will resort to the most extraordinary means whereby they can supply themselves. They will try to steal the trimmings of ladies' dresses, and will be continually pilfering grass and straw from other cages, which they will weave into the most fantastic forms. The author once owned a pair, which he kept in a cage with larger birds. These little fellows would weave the legs of the larger birds so tightly together that their bonds required cutting. There is a species of the weaver which is called by some the grenadier gros-beak. This bird should be termed the bishop bird, and, when in full plumage, is certainly very beautiful. It will live with other birds, and is apt to become very sociable with its companions, who will be caught in the meshes of its weaving if not upon their guard. So far as possible in a volume of this size, the description of finches will be found to be complete and reliable. These birds are all suitable for the aviary ; but the following birds can be placed with them by those who desire to make a more extended collection : canary, goldfinch, linnet, bulfinch, chaffinch, greenfinch,

siskin, American goldfinch, indigo bird, nonpareil, song sparrow, Java sparrow, Australian paroquets, love birds, mountain finch, rose bunting, cardinal grosbeak or Virginia nightingale, red-breasted grosbeak, Brazilian cardinal, crossbill, pine grosbeak, hawfinch, and sparrow. Of course the bird family, like all others, is liable to domestic troubles. Sometimes a bird of certain species will become troublesome, and destroy the quiet and happiness of the entire family. When such a one is found, he should be taken out and exchanged at a first-class bird-store for another of its kind: by this means the aviary will become a model of quietness and harmony.

The house of Charles Reiche & Brother have experienced a great deal of trouble, especially in earlier years, from the enormous duties which they were obliged to pay as customs for the importation of foreign birds. In order to facilitate the importation of choice birds from the different countries, this house for many years paid heavy duties under protest, while they carried on a suit with the government of the United States. It was only after a number of years, and after the case had passed through every court to the Supreme Court of the United States, that Chief Justice Chase decided, in 1872, that a bird was not an animal, and therefore, by the letter of the law, exempt from duty. Since that decision, the lovers of birds have been able to procure them at a low rate in comparison to that which they would have been obliged to pay, had it not been for the perseverance of Messrs. Charles Reiche & Brother.

BIRD-SEED. — Very few persons are aware how much a bird's health, and consequently its song, depends upon the selection of seed. There are as many qualities or grades of canary-seed as there are qualities or grades of flour. *Is all flour alike?* If it is, then all seed is alike. The quality of canary-seed is usually based by dealers in seed upon the price per bushel, — it varying from \$6.75 to \$8.00 at present writing (Jan, 1875). The very best seed is the

SICILY CANARY. — It is a very plump and heavy-feeling seed, and is extremely palatable to the bird. A sample of this seed — enough to last *one bird two months* — will be sent by mail, prepaid, on receipt of twenty-five cents.

THE GERMAN SUMMER RAPE-SEED is excellent for birds, and should always be given them. It is their only food in Germany, where they are reared, and, being of a very cooling nature, will always keep the bird in excellent condition; though, if fed on this exclusively, he will not sing as much as if his seed were mixed with canary, — the canary giving the bird life and animation. A PACKAGE OF CLEAR RAPE, or rape and canary mixed, will be sent the same as the clear canary, and at same price. The next seed which is used, and often by persons entirely ignorant of its nature, is

HEMP-SEED. — This is a very rich, oily, sweet seed, and very much loved by birds of every species. When mixed with other seeds, the bird never fails to scatter all other around the room, searching

for this dainty morsel, and, so long as he has one seed, will not taste either rape or canary. This, being the richest of all seed, should be fed very sparingly. If the bird is in health and song, never give hemp; for it only fattens, and, if constantly fed, will ruin the song. Occasionally a bird seems delicate, and is a very small eater: in such a case give a few hemp, — *and only a few*, unless the bird be a long breed, in which case give about a thimbleful, *not oftener* than twice a week. Goldfinches and siskins are fed upon

MAW-SEED, sometimes called poppy. These two little climbing birds have very soft bills, — that is, the young birds, — and it is with difficulty that they crack rape and canary seed, unless it has been previously soaked, until the birds are at least two years old. All birds are great lovers of maw-seed; and it must be fed sparingly; for, being a powerful opiate, they will feed upon it until they drop from the perch from its intoxicating effect. The few birds that require this seed, besides the preceding, are the bulfinch, canary, and occasionally some other seed-eating bird; for which see Treatment of Birds. The next seed used is called

PADDY, — unhulled or rough rice. This seed is fed to most of the seed-eating birds of the rice-fields of the Southern States, and also those that come from China, Java, or in fact from any part of the world that rice is grown. All of the family of grosbeaks are particularly fond of it, as is also the Java sparrow and rice bird. Our native bobolink is not

averse to a bountiful supply ; but, with the feeding of this in any quantity, his vocal powers are ruined. For the family of finches,

MILLET-SEED is used exclusively. It is the size and color of mustard-seed, very sweet ; and birds thrive remarkably well upon it, though many of them will also eat readily of rape and canary seed. This seed, being nutritious, can be fed to any seed-eating bird, and without detriment to them. The only other food required is

CRACKED CORN and cracked wheat. This is fed principally to macaws, parrots, paroquets (of the larger species), cockadillos, cockatoos, lories, &c. The corn, being of a heating nature, should only be given in small quantities.

By the present postal laws, seed can be sent safely through the mail ; and all orders intrusted to us will be filled with the very best quality, and the largest possible amount forwarded for the money sent.

To those living remote from a bird-store, and desiring one of "God's joyous warblers," it is with pleasure that we here state that they can be safely sent by express to any part of the United States or Canadas. All any party need do is to give an order to an express company, accompanying the same with a five-dollar bill, — this is very important to the express company, — and for this sum he will procure you a first-class singing canary. I am aware that many people are reluctant to trust a bird to the *supposed* rough handling of an expressman. The

expressman may handle a trunk roughly, and throw packages around in a careless manner, but not the little innocent bird.

Could you but see, as the author has so many, many times, on a cold, bleak winter's day, an express-messenger, clad in an ordinary under-coat, drive to the store door, and take from his wagon a package of birds closely *wrapped in his overcoat*, remarking as he placed the package within the door, "I could not bear, Mr. Holden, to see the little things suffer such a terrible day as this." Or had you been with the author one stormy night last winter, when coming eastward from New York by steamer, upon which was a large shipment of birds in charge of the Adams Express Company, you might have seen the messenger, on arriving at Fall River, carry the package with the utmost care into the cars, and place it near the stove in that part of the car usually occupied by himself. The comfort and safety of these helpless creatures was to him of the utmost importance. Having some curiosity, I asked him why he was so particular about the package, he replied, without knowing to whom he was speaking, "Ah, sir, I love those little birds! they cannot take care of themselves, and God knows my first duty is to them." A call at the office of the company revealed the fact, that the messenger was Mr. David Crowley, one of the three survivors of the fated "Lexington," which was burned in 1842. The house of Charles Reiche & Brother have shipped nearly *half a million birds*; and this immense number

without any loss worthy of mention. If our experience is worth any thing, do not hesitate to order; for the express company will always purchase at the point nearest your residence, and get them to you with as little exposure as possible.

Almost all fanciers take a delight in having their birds so tame that they will not only take their food from the hand, but will readily fly to, and remain with, the person from whom they daily receive attention. When wild birds are first caught and placed in a cage, it is not well to begin at once upon their education. It requires some little time for them to become accustomed to their new mode of life: the change of food, together with a diminishing of their usual exercise, so changes the fluids that the bird is not in a healthy condition, and is therefore wholly unfit for mental training.

There are some birds which seem thoroughly incapable of learning the important fact, that their attendant is their friend. When it is discovered that such is the nature of the bird in hand, it is as well to give up all hopes of attaining favorable results. Patience will, however, accomplish much; and it is best to give a long and careful trial before pronouncing final judgment. Young birds can be taught more easily than old ones. Yet with siskins, goldfinches, Java sparrows, and chaffinches almost any age will answer. One of the best ways to teach a bird to fly and return, or to go out of doors perched upon the finger or shoulder, is first to tease it with a soft feather in its cage, leaving the door open. The

bird at first will appear frightened, but, on finding that no harm is intended, will peck at the feather, which should be quickly withdrawn. The bird, soon thinking that it has mastered the feather, thereby gains confidence, and will peck at the finger: soon it will come out of its cage, and perch upon the hand. A few choice morsels should be laid down for it; and in this way it will soon learn to eat from the hand itself. The bird should then be made acquainted with some call, which should invariably be used whenever the training is going on; after a short time the bird can be placed upon the shoulder, and carried from one room to another, care being taken to close the windows and outside doors. In this way it will speedily become accustomed to being handled, and can be allowed to fly about the room, inviting it to return by the previously-arranged call or whistle. As soon as it attends to the call without appearing nervous or frightened, it can be taken into the open air, and gradually accustomed to being carried abroad without its offering to fly.

Adult birds should not be carried into the open air in the spring or in pairing time; for at this season of the year they show indications of resuming their native wildness. A siskin, goldfinch, or canary can easily be tamed by cutting away more or less of the inner web of the pinion-feathers, care being taken that the bird shall have sufficient power to fly from the hand without injury. The nostrils are then smeared with any essential oil, — bergamot is as good as any, — which will render it partially insensible for a

time. It should then be placed upon a finger, and changed from one to another. It may fly a few times, but should be brought back, and kept upon the hand until the effects of the oil have wholly passed away, when the bird, finding no harm is intended, will sit quietly. A few crushed hemp-seeds should be given for its good behavior, and the above repeated from day to day until a satisfactory result is obtained. Hunger will speedily teach a bird to take food from the hand. Place it in a small cage, — one that has a door large enough for the hand to pass through, — then remove all food. In a few hours try putting a seed-dish into the cage with your hand: if the bird flutters wildly about, and refuses to accept your offering, remove your dish, and wait a few hours longer. You will not be compelled to remain long in suspense, for two or three trials will generally effect a good result. After food has been accepted from the dish, try your hand; and as soon as you have convinced your pupil that only from you can food be procured, and to you, and you only, must he look for all his goodies, a friendship will be formed which he will not be first to break. Birds that are desired to be tame should be talked to and made of: they should be placed upon your writing-table, and every now and again a little notice taken of them. It is surprising how speedily these little fellows will learn the difference between neglect and attention. Some of the best birds which have been placed on exhibition have been those owned by tailors and shoemakers, who, owing to the nature

of their business, could keep their feathered pupils constantly with them.

Thus far I have spoken only of taming these "little dewdrops." They are capable of still greater things, and can, with little or no coercion, be taught to perform many amusing tricks. The goldfinch and siskin may be taught to fire off small cannon, to imitate death, to draw up their food and water in a little bucket. The apparatus consists of two lines of broad, soft leather, in which there are four holes, through which their feet and wings are passed, and the ends are held together beneath the belly by a ring, to which is attached a delicate chain that supports the buckets containing the food and drink. A bird thus equipped will draw up the chain by its beak, retaining the draw links by its feet, and thus succeeds in obtaining what he wishes. A cage can be made with a bay-window, in the floor of which have a hole: across this place a narrow bridge of wood, to which attach a small chain or piece of cord to hold the bucket, which should be about the size of a thimble. By drawing up the bucket filled with water, and letting the bird drink, then lowering it and pulling it part way up, he will soon acquire the habit of working at it. And, by gradually leaving a longer and longer length of chain between the bridge and the bucket, the bird will soon discover that he must pull the chain up into the cage, and hold it after it is there; and he readily comprehends the necessity of holding the chain with his foot. As soon as this is done, his education is complete,

Birds which are taught in this way never forget, and are always unhappy if out of their cage. Care should be taken to see that the working of the apparatus is not hard, and that it is always in order, otherwise a serious result might follow. A chain attached to a little wagon may be drawn into the cage and held in the same manner; and the bird may be taught to ring a bell by suspending it in a corner of the cage, and leaving him without seed until he is hungry, pulling the string attached to it and ringing it, and putting some favorite food into the glass. He will soon discover, that, whenever the bell rings, he gets his food, and will seize the string and ring it whenever he is hungry.

A few words of advice to those about purchasing a bird. All lovers of birds desire one with beautiful plumage, as well as one gifted with exquisite powers of song. There are times when it is impossible to secure both advantages in one bird, and, when this should be the case, always select the bird for his beauty of song, never for plumage. In visiting a bird-store to make a purchase, — perhaps your first one, — if the dealer has a large stock, and there is an incessant singing, it is almost an impossibility for any person to select just such a bird as he desires. One that the purchaser may think is an elegant singer may, after you have him alone, prove to be only a “twittering” bird, and his song composed of only six or eight notes. Again, you may select a bird for a sick friend who desires something quieting, — something that will sing

“words of comfort for hours of sorrow:” you may possibly select just such a bird ; but nine times out of ten you are liable to select a loud, shrill singer, whose notes seemingly pierce the brain.

How are you to obtain that which you so much desire? You have a friend whose bird just suits you; but that particular song you cannot by any possibility select in a bird-store. You have but one resource left; and that is, your confidence in the dealer: tell him plainly what you wish; and, if he has such a bird, you may depend upon his giving it to you; for he knows, even better than the purchaser, just what is required; and he will strive to please you, thereby not only gaining your esteem, but also the patronage of your friends, whom you will assuredly send to “your bird-store.” One source of great annoyance to a dealer is, after having selected such a bird, for the purchaser to turn to some other patron (*always a perfect stranger*) and ask his or her opinion of the bird, and then take the advice of a person whom they never saw before, and probably will never see again, and select a bird which the dealer knows is not what is desired, and in a few days — a week at furthest — return to exchange it; when, by taking the dealer’s first selection, and holding no conversation with a stranger whose knowledge of a bird may have been as profound as the bird’s knowledge of him or her, thereby causing a “little unpleasantness” between dealer and patron, which was as needless as it was unnecessary.

Many persons have an idea that a bird with clear

yellow feathers is the best singer, while others maintain that those with dark-green feathers are the best, and yet others think that a mottled bird is the best singer ; and many times it is hard to convince people otherwise. Upon inquiry, we find these ideas usually based upon the fact, that a friend of theirs once had a bird such and such a color, and it was a very fine singer, and they have been repeatedly told, that that colored bird was the best singer. To those who labor under this delusion we will simply state, that there are birds of every color that are inferior singers, and also those of every color that are very superior singers. The fact is, a bird's feathers have no more to do with his song than a lady's dress has to do with her voice. If a lady cannot sing with a plain dress, I doubt very much whether a *moire* trimmed with real lace would give her that much-wished-for accomplishment. In selecting a cage for a bird, always look first to his comfort, never forgetting that he is our little caged prisoner, and our first duty is to make his prison-life happy. The canary and many other birds will live happily in a cage of any size or shape ; while there are many birds that must be confined in a flat-top cage ; others again that must be kept in a cage the top of which must be of wood. The bird-dealer is always the best judge of the kind of cage best adapted to a bird's requirements ; and, if you follow his advice, you cannot go amiss. The improvements made in cages for the comfort of its occupant during the past three years have been very many ; and, in mak-

ing these improvements, style also has been consulted. We have the beautiful moresque, the Chinese pagoda, the Swiss cottage, the mansard, gothic, and in fact styles after every order of architecture, and many of them are very beautiful, and certainly pleasing to the eye. A bird's comfort, however, should be consulted a little, never forgetting that he is your caged prisoner; and your first thought always must be to make his prison life happy. Very few who own a

“Little dewdrop of celestial melody”

give a moment's thought to the fact that many of the song-birds require vastly different cages. A canary will pour forth his chant in any cage in which you place him. True, he loves a large cage, and will fly from one end to the other for joy. He will even take a bath several times a day if the opportunity is given him, and plume his feathers times without number. All this he will do, as well as eat, and sing occasionally. Should you keep such a bird for a pet, such a cage would answer every purpose: if you keep the bird for his song, then he must be kept in a small cage.

Owners of feathered songsters must have observed that many of them constantly flutter their wings, and look up as if about to fly upwards; others again look up, and turn their heads backwards, until you think they will fall backward, which they sometimes do. Did it ever occur to the owner of such a bird that he was not in a suitable cage? for

such is the fact. To those who have not studied this branch of natural history, and buy for the first time a bird and cage, always take the bird-dealer's advice as regards the cage. Your bird will then sing readily, remain quiet, and not fly as if afraid of his life, and ruin his plumage the first day that you possess him.

Amongst the many recent patented improvements for a bird's comfort, none are more worthy of mention than the Singer gravel-paper, and Aldom's Patent spring perch. The gravel-paper is cut of suitable sizes to fit cages of almost every shape.

The paper is a very superior quality of heavy manila, and the gravel, or bird sand, is of the choicest. It is so placed as to loosely adhere to the paper by a very small quantity of paste, made from the best of flour, which allows the bird to pick it off very readily; and this gravel is just as essential to a bird as his seed or bath. It also keeps the bottom of a cage in excellent condition; and last, though not least, it keeps the bird's feet perfectly clean, thereby keeping him, as the inventor claims, "in health and song."

The Aldom spring perch is an ingenious device at imitating the swaying of the limb of a tree: it gives to the bird a very graceful appearance; and is unlike the old-fashioned swing, which has broken so many limbs of birds. With this perch such an occurrence is an impossibility.

TRAPPING BIRDS. — Bird-dealers are constantly receiving orders and calls for “bird-lime.” This article is made from the inside bark of the holly, — a tree almost unknown in this country, though very plentiful in England. A substitute for this can be made by boiling linseed-oil away to about one-third the quantity you start with. It is a very dangerous operation, and should never be done in a house, its explosive qualities being fully equal to gunpowder. It will make a very strong bird-lime, and hold any small bird that lights upon a twig that has been smeared with it. Unless, however, the trapper is near at hand to remove the bird at once, he becomes besmeared all over his body and wings; and it is almost impossible to remove it until the bird moults, thereby, for the time being, ruining the sale of it. A far better way is with a TRAP-CAGE, and a bird for a caller; and, if you can obtain a blind bird, he will sit quietly, and call all day long, and many, very many more birds can be taken than if the bird had his sight.

A few words on the subject of carefully wrapping the paper around the cage in which a bird is taken from the store.

There are very many people who think that a bird will “smother” if covered up closely. Such, however, is not the case. A dealer knows better than any one else possibly can. And, if the purchaser would only remain quiet until the package was ready to deliver, he or she would always discover that the last thing done was to make a few small holes in the

top to let out the hot air, but by no means let in cold ; if so, a bird would assuredly *catch cold*. And lastly, I will say to all who now own birds, or ever expect to, that all they require is suitable seed, as you have been informed in the body of this work, clean water for drinking and bathing daily, gravel-paper or sand on the bottom of the cage, a little green stuff or sweet apple once in three or four weeks, — not oftener, — and *nothing else*.

TOBACCO SMOKE is not, as many suppose, injurious to birds. A little occasionally is beneficial. I would not, however, recommend keeping a bird in a continued cloud of smoke.

TO CLEAN A BRASS, SILVER, OR GOLD PLATED CAGE, always wash with a sponge or piece of old towel, using clear cold water, and wipe dry. The surface of these cages being varnished, if hot water is used, they will have the appearance of being spattered with milk, which can never be removed. If they are scoured the same as brass-ware ordinarily is, the varnish will be removed, and the cage commence to corrode, and require polishing daily.

SILVER PLATED AND BRASS CAGES can be refinished in two days, and made in appearance equal to new. Cages are refinished in silver for \$2.00 ; in brass, \$1.00.



OUR PRICE-LIST.

The constant inquiry, by mail and otherwise, since the issue of the two previous editions, for prices of the various birds, has rendered it necessary to publish the following list of prices :—

- All young male canaries are sold for each \$4.00
 Canary-birds that have been taught to pipe a tune are usually sold at each \$20.00 to \$50.00
 Canary-birds that have part of a tune mixed with their ordinary song are usually sold at each \$10.00 to \$20.00
 Canary-birds that have the notes of the English Nightingale, Lark, Robin, or of other fine whistling birds, mingled with their own song, sell at prices varying from each \$5.00 to \$10.00
 Canary-birds of a deep golden color, in perfect plumage, usually sell for each \$7.00
 Cinnamon Canary. This highly-prized bird, if in perfect plumage and song, sells at prices varying from each \$10.00 to \$20.00
 Canary-birds of an olive-green or golden-brown color usually sell at each \$5.00
 All female canaries of the ordinary colors are sold at each \$1.50
 High-colored females, either a deep golden color, olive-green, golden-brown, or any clear stock, sell at prices varying from each \$2.00 to \$4.00

The above prices for males and females apply to the short or German birds, which are the finest songsters.

Long Breed or French Canaries, sometimes called Belgium or Antwerp birds, are sold at prices varying from each \$5.00 to \$15.00

Males and females both bring the same price.

The above prices refer to imported stock.

Half Long Breed Canaries are sold at prices varying from each \$4.00 to \$12.00

The demand for Long Breed birds is so limited, that there have been none imported worthy of calling an importation for the past five years.

The Bulfinch, unlearned	each \$3.00 to \$5.00
“ “ that pipes one tune	each \$15.00 to \$40.00
“ “ “ “ two tunes	each \$35.00 to \$70.00
“ “ “ “ three tunes	\$100.00
The Black-Cap Warbler	each \$3.00 to \$6.00
The Blackbird	each \$8.00 to \$15.00
“ “ that pipes one tune	each \$15.00 to \$40.00
The Brazilian Cardinal	each \$5.00 to \$8.00
“ “ “ a very choice songster	\$10.00
The Goldfinch	each \$2.00 to \$4.00
“ “ a very choice songster	\$5.00
The Goldfinch Mule	each \$5.00 to \$8.00
“ “ “ a very choice songster	\$10.00
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ and high colored	each \$10.00 to \$25.00
“ Chaffinch	each \$3.00 to \$5.00
“ Java Sparrows	each \$2.00 to \$2.50
“ Sky-Larks	each \$4.00 to \$5.00
“ “ “ choice songsters	each \$6.00 to \$10.00
“ Wood-Lark	each \$5.00 to \$8.00
“ “ “ choice songsters	each \$15.00
“ Linnet, Gray or Brown	each \$2.50 to \$4.00
“ “ “ “ choice songsters	each \$5.00
“ “ Green	each \$5.00
“ “ “ choice songsters	each \$7.00
“ Nightingale	each \$10.00 to \$20.00
“ “ “ choice songsters	each \$25.00
“ Siskin	each \$1.50 to \$3.00
“ Starling	each \$5.00 to \$10.00
“ “ that pipes one tune	each \$15.00 to \$40.00
“ Troopial	each \$12.00 to \$15.00
“ Thrush	each \$8.00 to \$15.00
“ “ “ choice songsters	each \$15.00 to \$25.00

All the above are imported birds; and the highest prices quoted should purchase the choicest bird of its kind in any part of America.

The following birds, suitable for the aviary, comprising Avadavat or Amandava, Bishop Finch, Banded Finch, Cordon Bluefinch, Cut-throat Finch, Celestial Finch, Cuba Finch, Diamond Sparrow, Fire-finch, Fascinated Finch, Indian Sparrow, Indian Silver-bill, The Little Doctor, Magpie Finch, Negro, Nun (both black and white capped), Quaker Finch, Rockhampton Finch, Spotted-sided Finch, Saffron Finch, St. Helena Waxbill, Spice Birds.

All the preceding birds average \$3.00 each, and are imported from Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Beautiful aviary cages for twelve to twenty birds	\$18.00
“ “ to hold twenty to forty birds	\$40.00
Australian Paroquets	a pair \$10.00 to \$15.00
Robin Redbreasts (English)	each \$5.00
English Sparrows	a pair \$2.50 to \$3.00
Parrots, gray (young birds)	each \$10.00 to \$15.00
“ “ talkers	each \$20.00 to \$30.00
“ “ extra fine talkers	each \$30.00 to \$50.00
“ “ “ “ and singers	each \$50.00 to \$100.00
“ Double-yellow Head command the same prices as above.	
“ Half-yellow Head figure about 25 per cent less.	
“ Green about half the price of Gray.	

The above are imported from Australia, Africa, and South America.

Bobolink (wild)	each \$0.50 to \$1.00
“ in full song	each \$1.00 to \$3.00
Cardinal Bird	each \$3.50 to \$5.00
Fire Bird	each \$2.00 to \$5.00
Grosbeak, rose-breasted	each \$3.50 to \$5.00
“ in full song	each \$5.00 to \$10.00
“ Cardinal	each \$3.50 to \$5.00
Indigo Bird (wild)	each \$1.50
“ “ in full song	each \$3.50 to \$5.00
Linnet, red (wild)	each \$1.00
“ in full song	each \$3.00
Mocking-Birds (nestling)	each \$3.50 to \$7.00
“ one-year-old, in song	each \$12.00 to \$20.00
“ two-year-old choice songsters	each \$25.00 to \$40.00
“ learned ones, to whistle a tune nearly perfect	each \$75.00 to \$200.00
Nonpareils	each \$5.00
Robins (American)	each \$3.00 to \$5.00
“ Golden	each \$3.00 to \$5.00
Red Birds	each \$3.50 to \$5.00
Song-Sparrows	each \$2.00
“ “ in full song	each \$3.00 to \$5.00
Virginia Nightingales	each \$3.50 to \$5.00
Yellow Birds (American Goldfinch)	each \$0.50 to \$3.00

The above are American birds, and comprise all that are usually kept for either beauty of plumage, or elegance of song; and of many of them it can be said, —

“Notes with many a winding bout
Of linkèd sweetness long drawn out.”

We have constantly on hand cages of every description, and at prices varying from seventy-five cents to forty dollars; viz., —

Enamelled Cages with sliding doors and patent fastenings	
to \$8.00.	
Brass Cages at \$3.00, increasing .50 each to \$7.00 each.	
“ “ extra large	each \$7.50, \$8.00, and
Silver-plated Cages	each \$7.00, \$8.00, and
“ “ “ with gold-plated trimmings	\$10.00, \$15.00, and
The above cages are adapted to all the small, seed-eating birds.	
Parrot Cages, new style, similar to the brass cages, at \$3.00, increasing .50 each to \$6.00.	
Parrot Cages, square, the finest made	each \$10.00 to 13.00
Wooden Cages, thirty-two different styles, in size from eight by ten inches to fourteen by twenty-six inches, at prices varying from	each \$1.50 to \$5.00
Wooden Cages for Mocking-Birds	each \$3.50 to \$8.00
Mocking-Bird Cages, square, new style	each \$10.00 to \$13.00
Sky-Lark Cages	each \$3.50 to \$5.00
Mouse Cages	each \$0.50 to \$3.00
Squirrel Cages	each \$2.50 to \$6.00
“ “ square, new style	each \$8.00 to \$13.00

Bird-Seed. See article on seed, page 108.

Mocking-bird food, box or bottle	each \$0.50
If sent by mail	each \$0.60

Aldom's Spring Perch. See article on page 120.

This perch will be sent free by mail on receipt of twenty-five cents.

Meal Worms. These can usually be obtained at feed-stores, grist-mills, or in pigeon-houses.

Ants' Eggs. See article on page 82. We will send free by mail sufficient for one bird three months for twenty-five cents.

Gravel Paper. See article on page 120. Price per package, twelve sheets, twenty-five cents; if sent by mail, thirty cents.

Bathing-dishes, Cups, Jars, Fountains, Bottles, Nests, Cuttle-Fish, Gravel, Perchwood, &c., can be obtained at any Bird or House-furnishing goods store. To those living remote from a bird-store, we will send any of the above articles by mail or express.

Address

NEW-YORK BIRD STORE,

9 Bowdoin Square, Boston, Mass.

HENRY REICHE.

CHAS. F. HOLLEN.

No. 1.	Brass Cage, diameter of body, 8½ in.	\$3 00
	“ “ “ “ “ 9 “	3 50
	“ “ “ “ “ 9¼ “	4 00
No. 2.	Brass Cage, diameter of body, 8½ in.	4 00
	“ “ “ “ “ 9 “	4 50
No. 3.	Brass Cage, diameter of body, 9 in.	4 00
No. 4.	“ “ “ “ “ 9 “	5 00
	“ “ “ “ “ 9 “	5 00
No. 5.	Silver Plated “ “ “ 9 “	8 00
No. 6.	Brass Cage “ “ “ 10 “	6 00
	Silver Plated, with Gold Plated trimmings	10 00
No. 7.	Brass Cage, Diameter of body 10 in.	6 00
	Silver Plated, with Gold Plated trimmings	10 00
No. 8.	Same as No. 6.	
No. 9.	Brass Cage, body 9 x 11, x 10½ in. high	5 00
“ 10.	“ “ “ 9½ x 12, x 12 “ “	6 00
“ 11.	“ “ “ 10 x 13, x 14 “ “	6 00
“ 12.	“ “ “ 10 x 13, x 15 “ “	7 00
“ 13.	“ “ “ 13½ x 11, x 18, for Paroquet	8 00
“ 14.	Brass Aviary, body 23½ x 14½ x 27 in. high	18 00
“ “	“ “ “ 30 x 20, x 32½ “ “	40 00
“ 15.	Cage, “ 18 x 15, x 23 “ for Parrot	10 00
“ “	“ “ “ 23 x 15, x 23 “ “ “	13 00
“ 16.	“ “ “ 20 x 14½, x 22 “ for Mocking-bird	10 00
“ “	“ “ “ 24 x 14½, x 24 “ “ “ “	12 00
“ 17.	Brass Cage, body 15 x 13, x 20 “ wheel 11 in. for Squirrel	9 00
“ “	“ “ “ 18 x 15, x 23 “ “ 14 “ “ “	10 00
“ 18.	“ “ “ 18 x 13, x 20 “ 2 “ 11 “ “ “	12 00
“ “	“ “ “ 23 x 15, x 23 “ “ “ 14 “ “ “	14 00
“ 19.	New patent Feed Cup in most Brass Cages	20
“ 20.	Hook for suspending Cage from ceiling	10
“ 21.	Brass Chain, to hang Cage in window, — 1 yd.	25
“ 22.	“ Spring, permitting a Cage to sway like a bough	25
“ 23.	Spring Perch. A bird's delight	25
“ 24.	Japanned Iron Hook, to project Cage from window	25
“ “	Nickel Plated “ “ “ “ “ “	40
“ 25.	Solid Brass “ “ “ “ “ “	50
“ 26.	Our Store, No. 9 Bowdoin Square.	
“ 27.	Map, showing “ “ “ “	

Nos. 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25, we send to any address by mail, prepaid on receipt of price. †.

Nos. 1 to 18 inclusive, we send to any address within 1,000 miles of Boston, by express, prepaid, on receipt of price.

Our Brass Cages are warranted all brass wire and brass bottoms; and Nos. 1 to 11 inclusive have tin false bottoms, thus preventing the bath-tub from upsetting. With any brass cage less than 10 in. diameter, an extra large bur-nished bottom is furnished for 50 cents additional.

Nos. 12 to 18 inclusive have heavy zinc bottom and sliding drawer, with heavy black-walnut moulding, oil finished, all around the Cage, and to which the ornamental iron feet are fastened.

The following articles required with a Bird and Cage we send to any address on the receipt of \$1.00: 1 quart mixed seed, 1 bath-tub, 1 package (12 sheets) of gravel-paper, 1 hook to project cage from window, one yard of brass chain, 1 copy of "Holden's Book on Birds."

Seed Protector, keeps seed off carpet; by mail, 50 cents. Sun Protector, to shade the bird in summer, by mail, 30 cents.

Lovers of birds, living remote from our large cities, and desirous of obtaining any article pertaining to birds and cages, can procure the best quality from us at the lowest rates.

To those who are unaware of recent changes in the postal laws, we would state that extraordinary inducements are now presented by the Post-Office Department for the careful and prompt transmission of merchandise sent through the mail, whereby at the very low rate of one cent for each ounce, on parcels weighing four pounds or less, purchasers at any point in the United States or Territories can have goods forwarded to them at a merely nominal expense.



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