

QUEER BIRDS.

habits and characters from faces.
Philosophy means living

In traveling around, I have met a lot of people who had queer ideas, act queerly and are queer in looks. However, I know birds better than people. As I compare the two races, there is a great deal more of individuality ^{+ purpose} in birds looks than in the looks of people. When I see a man with a big nose, I can't tell exactly what he does for a living, but I can tell when I see a bird with a freak nose. A man may have big ears or big feet, but I can't read these signs in a human as well as I can in a bird.

Bill stick whinyou
Bill like Cooper

There are a lot of queer birds in the world. The hummingbird has a long nose on the end of his face which isn't a nose at all; it is a bill that has developed through ages because he is accustomed to probe down into the flowers and lick up the honey with his long slender tongue. *Back in the legend of history etc.* The ibis and the avocet have very long beaks, ^{which} but they are used for probing in the mud. A puffin, on the other hand, has a beak like the prow of a battleship. He got it through his long experience in tearing and cracking shell fish. The queerest freak I ever saw was a cormorant or shag that had half the beak of a bird that dives for fish and his upper mandible hooked like the beak of an eagle.

Crane like eagle + crow
has built the same as he did

There is a whole world of individuality in the way birds choose and build their homes. A swallow ^{has built} builds a house of little mud bricks with the straws woven in ^{the same as he did} long before the biblical times when they tried to make bricks without straw. Furthermore, he plasters the home on the under side of a cliff or the eaves of a barn, and while the foundation is up-side down, it is as solid and permanent from a bird standpoint as any

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round
adobe house built by human hands. A robin builds a fine nest
~~in a tree~~ with a foundation of mud and a neat well rounded
course of straws on top. An oriole or a vireo builds a hang-
ing basket, but a bush-tit has a regular mansion which is a
long pocket with a good roof and a little round door and a
hallway down to the main living room. It is a sort of a hang-
ing garden of moss, feathers and lichens in the tree-top. On
the other hand, a murre or guillemot or a nighthawk doesn't
even think of pretend to ~~use~~ a single straw for a home. The one lays a single
big pear-shaped egg on the edge of a rocky cliff; the other
drops two eggs in among the pebbles of a gravel bar or on the
tar and pebbles of the roof of a city sky-scraper, and she goes
about brooding eggs and pebbles at the same time. A kingfisher
does a little better, but he is not much higher in the scale
of life than a reptile, for he digs a cave back into a sand
cliff and raises a family in the dark. A woodpecker bores a
hole in an old stump and lives in a real log cabin. A grebe
belongs to the floating population and makes a floating raft
for a nest on the surface of the water anchored to the bottom
by a long string of milfoil or set in against some tule stems.

When it comes to hunting a living, there is no end
of tastes. *among birds.* There are fishermen of various types and sizes.
like the blue heron A still hunter, ~~who~~ stands knee-deep in the water
imitating an old stick until a perch swims past, when he pins
him with his spear-pointed bill. A kingfisher or osprey hunts
by flying over and dropping like a plummet, a kingfisher catching
a fish in his bill, the osprey taking the fish in his talons.
Then ~~are~~ dip-net fishermen like the pelicans who scoop into
a school of sardines, or *a* sheldrake, merganser or saw-bill

that dive underneath the water and overtakes a fish in a fair chase. ~~A bird like the hummingbird probes for flowers for sweets and tiny insects.~~ A sapsucker punches holes in the bark of a tree and later sips the sap and any little insects that may have come for the same purpose. A hawk is a real hunter of the woods by day, and the owl by night, dropping upon some of the smaller animals that are caught out of their homes. A flycatcher or a swallow is at the same active kind of a chase snapping up flying insects. A buzzard or condor is a degenerated eagle that plays a waiting game until ^{some} smaller and larger creatures die from natural causes or by accident. ?

Some birds are social, some solitary, just as man lives in a crowded tenement or out on the frontiers. A murre, for instance, is a creature of the crowd and lives in a real bird tenement, ^{living} during the nesting season so close together with barely standing ^{standing} place on the ledge, rubbing elbows with the neighbors on all sides. Gulls, pelicans, cormorants, terns and many others nest in a community within a few feet of each other and travel in flocks the year around. A heron is social enough during the breeding season, but each as a rule, has a solitary feeding ground of his own and ^{he} ~~they~~ ⁴ ~~are~~ not so friendly in the hunt. ^{Some} Most birds, however, when it comes to their home life, pair off and seek rather a solitary existence during the breeding season. One seldom, if ever, finds two pairs of kingfishers ^{nesting} anywhere near together along the banks of a stream. It is much the same with owls, hawks, eagles, woodpeckers and many of the song birds.

When it comes to play or amusement resulting from release ~~relief~~ of surplus energy or the enthusiasm of courtship, birds are not very different from people. A flock of crows will have a variety of aerial games. A pheasant or grouse has

number of
a ~~variety~~ of ways displaying its beauty, in showing its
plumage off to great advantage during the courting season
or strange and fantastic struts and dances. The drumming of
the ruffed grouse is well known. The male seeks an old drunning
log in the woods and stretching himself up, beats a rapid
tattoo with his wings, which is a blissful serenade to his
lady in the woods. The most fantastic dance I have seen is
that of the sage grouse. It is not a solitary performance,
but a flock of fifty or a hundred old cocks will use a sand
patch of several acres in the sage brush desert.

Description of dance----

While the strut of the sage grouse is more pro-
nounced than a show of well dressed men, it hasn't the same
qualities and significance of the dance of the western grebe.
The performance of one is in the western wilds of the high
desert country, the other on the surface of some lake far away
from the haunts of man.

Dance of the grebe----

In looking at a man, he may have a marked individuality in size, manner of his walk and actions. This may or may not give you much of an idea of how he gets his living.

With birds, however, there is always a good indication of what he does when you get a look at him. If he has webs between his toes, you know he is of the water. If his legs are quite long, he is likely to be a wader. If he has a hooked beak and a fierce eye, he is a feathered hunter and a killer.

same idea
as be-
ginning

Birds are like people

Birds look diff. from people.