

BIRDS IN LITERATURE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649151097

Birds in literature by Abby P. Churchill

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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ABBY P. CHURCHILL

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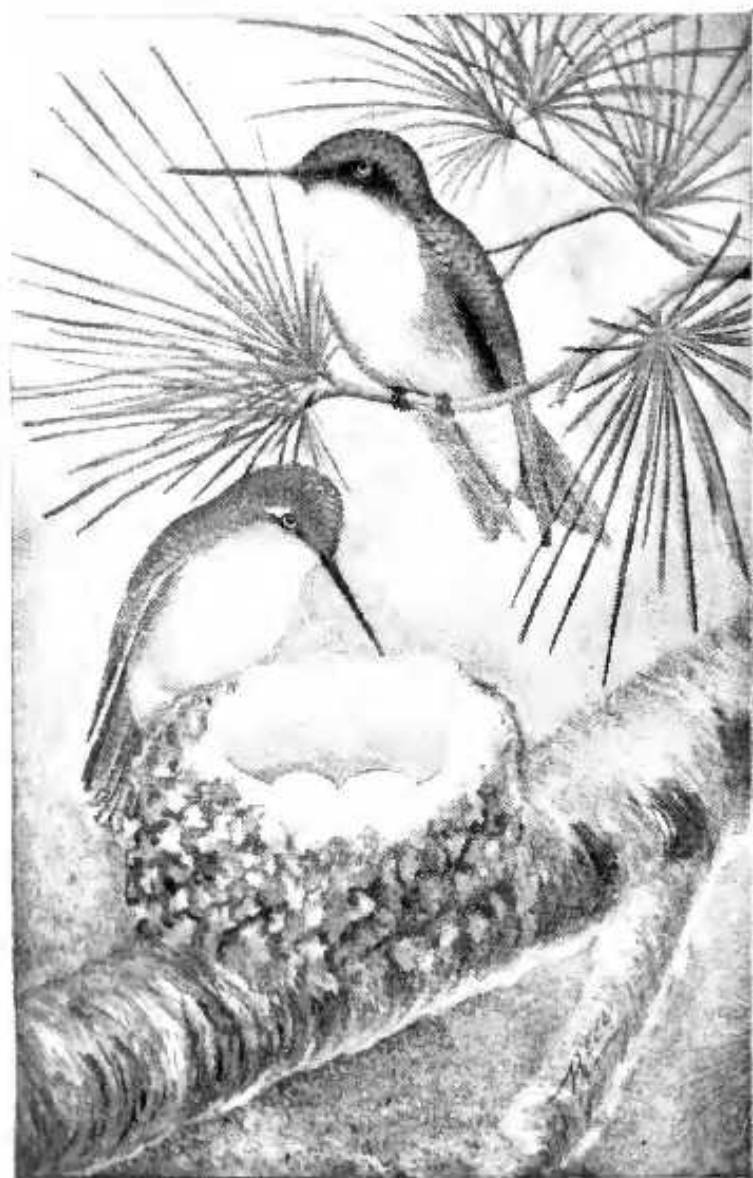
CHURCHILL

BIRDS IN LITERATURE

Do you ne'er think what wondrous beings these?
Do you ne'er think who made them, and who taught
The dialect they speak, where melodies
Alone are the interpreters of thought?
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!
And when you think of this, remember too
'Tis always morning somewhere, and above
The awakening continents, from shore to shore,
Somewhere the birds are singing evermore.

LONGFELLOW. "Birds of Killingworth."



BIRDS IN LITERATURE

BY

ABBY P. CHURCHILL

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL
FITCHBURG, MASS.



WORCESTER, MASS.
THE DAVIS PRESS, INC.
PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS
1911

Introduction

WE see with what we are; and what we see is constantly changing us for better or for worse. If we look for ugliness, we see ugliness, and our spiritual growth is abnormal and deformed. If we look for beauty, the beautiful meets us everywhere and transforms our minds and hearts.

The past decade has witnessed an almost unparalleled turning of men to Nature, seeking refreshment and renewal through her beauty and her mystery. Men have not always looked at Nature in this way, nor do all today. To primitive man she brought fear and awe and wonder. Many centuries must pass before a Wordsworth could declare "that Nature never did betray the heart that loved her." And yet from the very beginning men must have thought of the birds—particularly of those whose migrations were the most striking, and of the eagle and others that seemed in their soaring to touch the very heavens—as allied with clouds and winds and stars very closely to the mysterious unseen and unknown. So in the earliest attempts at literature we find the birds, often in simple reference or figure, often in myth or legend. In the literature of all races we find them and in the literature of all times.

The compiler of this book, an enthusiastic, intelligent lover and student of Nature, one who understands the meaning of Nature as a resource in life, one who has spent many years helping others to see, to feel, and to know the beauty and the mystery of the flowers, the birds, the woods and the fields, has brought together herein from those who have entered into and understood bird life the myths, legends and traditions; the pregnant thoughts from

poets' minds; the appreciative descriptions and interpretations; that through these word pictures we all may see our common birds in beauty and in truth,

"For, don't you mark? We're made so that we love
First when we see them painted, things we have passed
Perhaps a hundred times nor eared to see."

This is just as true of the poet's word picture as it is of the canvas of Fra Lippo Lippi, and the collector of these bird pictures has rendered a service and met a need. This book will arouse and create an interest in birds, it will lighten the labor of all who attempt to lead others to appreciate and love our wonderful bird life. It is a growth in response to a need, and is published because of the constant demand for copies.

JOHN G. THOMPSON.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,
Fitchburg, Massachusetts.
January, 1905.