

**THE SONGS OF THE BIRDS;
OR,
ANALOGIES OF ANIMAL
AND SPIRITUAL LIFE**

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The songs of the birds; or, Analogies of animal and spiritual life by W. E. Evans

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W. E. EVANS

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THE
SONGS OF THE BIRDS.

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SPIRITUAL LIFE.

BY THE
REV. W. E. EVANS, M.A.,
PREBENDARY OF DUREFORD,
AND TUTOR OF "GODLY PRAYERS."

"And flowers were preachers, and still [stranger] drew
From their own life and course
The lore they would enforce;
And sound their doctrine was, and every precept true."
VALLEHEAD.

LONDON:
FRANCIS & JOHN RIVINGTON,
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH YARD, AND WATERLOO PLACE.
1845.

PR
4699
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TO

MY FOUR DEAR CHILDREN,

This little Volume

IS DEDICATED,

WITH THE HOPE THAT IT MAY INCREASE THE INTEREST

THEY ALREADY TAKE IN OUR

FAVOURITE SONGSTERS;

AND, UNDER GOD'S BLESSING,

BE A MEANS OF TURNING THAT INTEREST TO

GOOD AND LASTING ACCOUNT.

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INTRODUCTION.

It is not intended in the following pages to give any precise and scientific account of our British singing birds, but merely so far to describe their habits and dispositions, as may suit the purpose, which the following little work has in view.

It is not necessary, that the young readers, for whom it is intended, should all be naturalists, that they should be correct and scientific in their knowledge of ornithology, so as to be able to detect always the specific difference in form and plumage between the different species. But it is necessary that they should all be Christians, sincere and faithful ones; and the sole object of this little book is, to connect this interesting portion of animate

life with thoughts of higher import; and to make them, if possible, signals for calling up, in the midst of our daily walk, a crowd of holy and spiritual associations.

For if the contemplation of the natural world around us is not made to do more than awaken our sense of the Deity's power and beneficence, it will prove but a feeble help in the formation of the Christian character. It must indeed, as St. Paul tells us (Rom. i. 20), lead, if duly followed, to a conviction of the Deity's eternal power and godhead: but after that, it hath no more that it can do. It cannot, of itself, lead us onward to the conviction of his redeeming love; it has no language in which to speak to us of mercy and forgiveness, remission of sins, communion with God, and everlasting life after death. The noblest and highest branch of it, the study of astronomy, can lead us no further. "The sun and the moon praise Him," indeed, "and all the stars of light:" though they have neither speech nor language, their voices are heard among them. The astonishing discoveries made in later times in that vast field of science, the