

Nature Series №23.

How to tell the Birds from the Flowers.



The Crow.

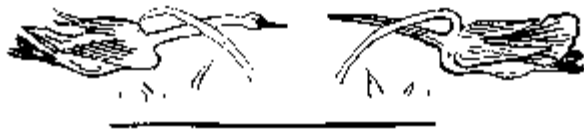


The Crocus

Source: The Project Gutenberg Etext

How To Tell The Birds From The Flowers.

A Manual of Flornithology
for **B**eginners.

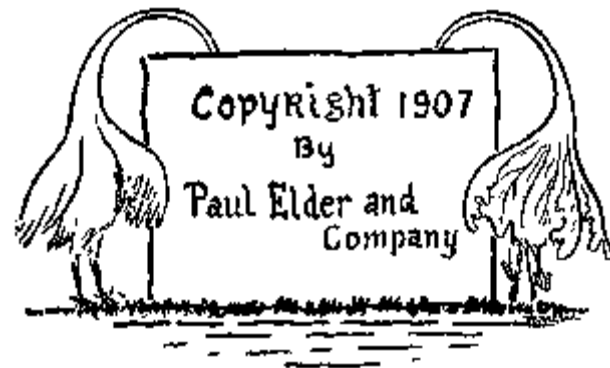


—• Verses and Illustrations •—

By Robert Williams Wood.

Published by Paul Elder and Company
San Francisco and New York.

[This is a book of humour masquerading as a nature book. The special thing about it is the illustrations, which make each bird and flower look remarkably similar.--ed.]





Burr.



Bird

The Bird and the Burdock.

Who is there who has never heard,
About the Burdock and the Bird?
And yet how very very few,
Discriminate between the two,
While even Mr. Burbank can't
Transform a Bird into a Plant!

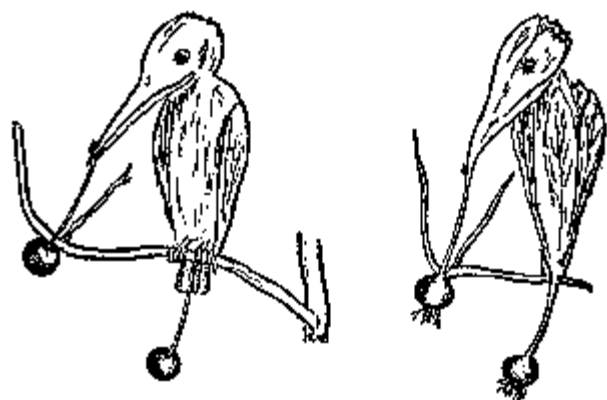


Burbank.



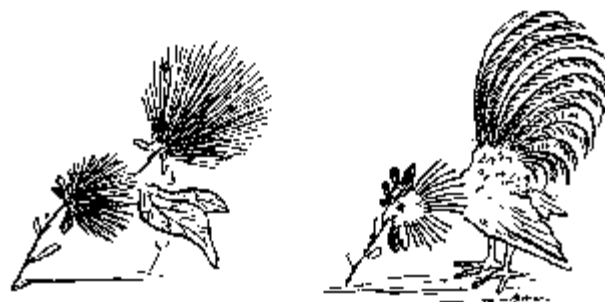
The Clover. The Plover.

The Plover and the Clover can be told
apart with ease,
By paying close attention to the
habits of the Bees,
For ento-molo-gists aver, the Bee
can be in Clover,
While ety-molo-gists concur, there
is no B in Plover.



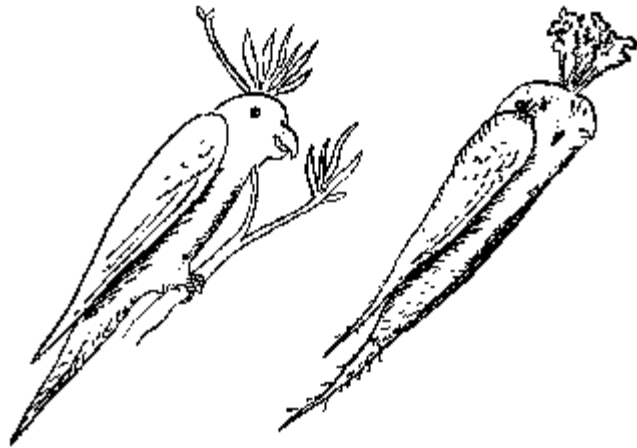
The Crow. The Crocus.

Some are unable, as you know,
 To tell the CROCUS from the Crow;
 The reason why is just because
 They are not versed in Nature's laws.
 The noisy, cawing Crows all come,
 Obedient to the Cro' custom,
 A large Crow Caw-cus to convoke.
 You never hear the Crocus croak!



The Rue. The Rooster.

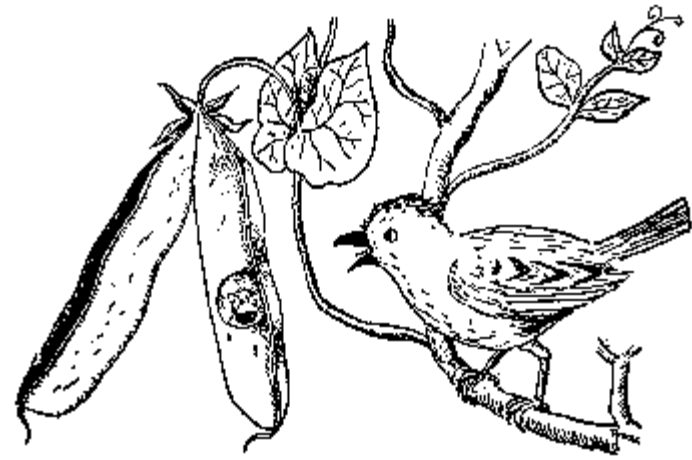
Of Rooster the rudiment clearly
 is "Roo".
 And the bird from the plant
 very probably grew.
 You can easily tell them apart
 without fail,
 By merely observing the Rue
 lacks de-tail.



The Parrot. The Carrot.

The Parrot and the Carrot we may
easily confound,
They're very much alike in looks
and similar in sound,
We recognize the Parrot by his
clear articulation,
For Carrots are unable to engage
in conversation.

- 5 -



The Pea. The Pewee.

To tell the Pewee from the Pea,
Requires great per-spi-cac-ity.
Here in the pod we see the Pea,
While perched close by is the Pewee;
The Pea he hears the Pewee peep,
While pewee sees the wee Pea weep.
There'll be but little time to see,
How Pewee differs from the Pea.

- 6 -



The Pelican. The Panicle.

The Panicle and Pelican
Have often been confused;
The letters which spell Pelican
In Panicle are used.
You never need confound the two,
There are many ways of telling;
The simplest thing that one can do,
Is to observe the spelling.



The Hen. The Lichen.

The Lichens lie on rocks and bark,
They look somewhat like Hens:
Hens lay, they lie, we may remark,
A difference of tense.



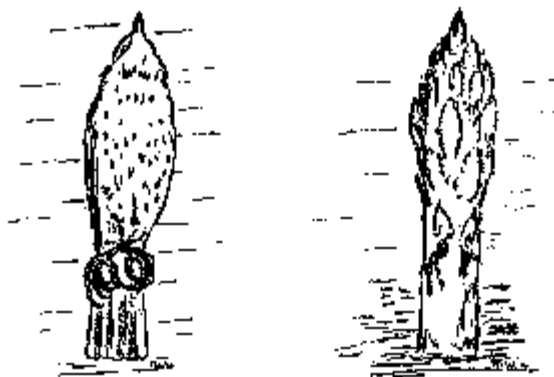
The Hawk. The Hollyhock.

To recognize this Bird-of-Prey,
 The broody Hen you should survey:
 She takes her Chicks on daily walks,
 Among the neighboring Hollyhocks,
 While with the Hawk association,
 Is quite beyond her toleration.



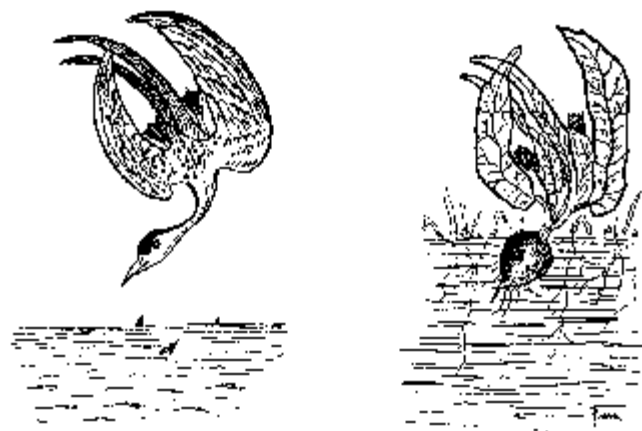
The Cow Bird. The Cowslip.

Growing in mires, in gold attired,
 The Cowslip has been much admired,
 Altho' its proper name, we're told,
 Is really the Marsh Marigold:
 The Cow Bird picture, I suspect,
 Is absolutely incorrect,
 We make such errors now and then,
 A sort of cow slip of the pen.



A Sparrow. Asparagus.

The Sparrow, from flying, is quite
out of breath,
In fact he has worked himself
almost to death,
While the lazy Asparagus, —
—so it is said,—
Spends all of his time in the
'sparagus bed.



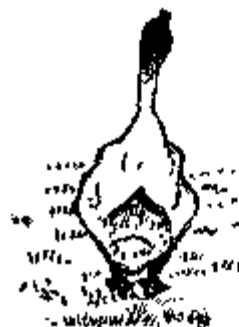
The Tern. The Turnip.

To tell the Turnip from the Tern,
A thing which everyone should learn,
Observe the Tern up in the air,
See how he turns,—and now compare
Him with this inert vegetable,
Who thus to turn is quite unable,
For he is rooted to the spot,

While as we see the Tern is not:
He is not always doomed to be
Thus bound to earth e-tern-ally,
For "Cooked to a turn may be inferred,
To change the Turnip to the Bird.



Observe the Turnip in the pot,
The Tern is glad that he is not!



The Ole Gander. The Oleander.

The Gander loves to promenade
Around the farmer's poultry-yard,
While, as we see, the Oleander
Is quite unable to meander.



The Blue Mountain Lory. The Blue Morning Glory.

The Blue Mountain Lory spends most
of his time
In climbing about in a tropical clime;
We therefore our efforts need only
confine,
To minutely observing the climb
of the Vine.



The Quail. The Kale.

The California Quail is said
To have a tail upon his head,
While contrary-wise we style the Kale,
A cabbage head upon a tail.
It is not hard to tell the two,
The Quail commences with a queue.



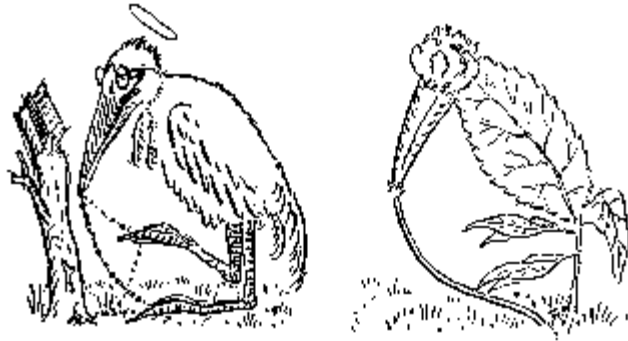
The Pecan. The Toucan.

Very few can
Tell the Toucan
From the Pecan --
Here's a new plan:
To take the Toucan from the tree,
Requires im-mense agil-i-tee,
While any one can pick with ease
The Pecans from the Pecan trees:
It's such an easy thing to do,
That even the Toucan he can too.



The Auk. The Orchid.

We seldom meet, when out to walk,
Either the Orchid or the Auk;
The Auk indeed is only known
To dwellers in the Auktic zone,
While Orchids can be found in legions,
Within the equatorial regions.
The graceful Orchid on its stalk,
Resembles so the aukward Auk;



The Ibis. The 'Ibiscus.

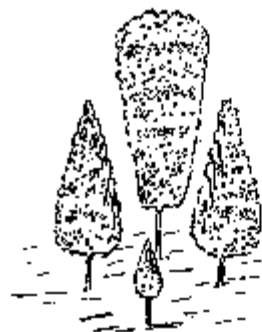
The sacred Ibis tells his beads,
 And gravely from his prayer-book reads;
 The Ibis therefore we may say,
 Is classified a bird-of-prey,
 'Ibiscus we have heard related,
 The "Crimson-Eye" is designated;
 Their difference is plain indeed,
 The flower is red, the bird can read.



The Butter-bail. The Butter-cup.

The little Butter-cup can sing,
 From morn 'til night like anything;
 The quacking of the Butter-bail,
 Cannot be called a song at all.
 We thus the flower may learn to know,
 Its song is reproduced below.



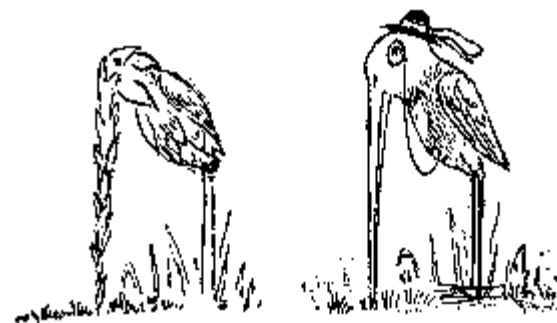


The Bay



The Jay.

The Blue-Jay, as we plainly see,
Resembles much the green Bay tree:
The difference between the two,
Is ob-vi-ous-ly one of hue.
Though this is not the only way,
To tell the Blue-Jay from the Bay.



The Pipe. The Snipe.

Observe the common Indian Pipe,
Likewise the high-bred English Snipe,
Who is distinguished, as we see,
By his superior pedigree.



Four crosses, barry
base, sinister.



Two, argent,
above, same.