THE EVOLUTION OF BIRD-SONG, WITH OBSERVATIONS ON THE INFLUENCE OF HEREDITY AND LIMITATION

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The evolution of bird-song, with observations on the influence of heredity and limitation by Charles A. Witchell

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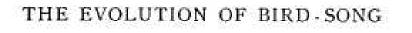
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CHARLES A. WITCHELL

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EVOLUTION OF BIRD-SONG

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BY

CHARLES A. WITCHELL

AUTHOR OF "THE FAUNA OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE"

LONDON ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK 1896

PREFACE

I WISH to mention in this place my deep sense of obligation to those kind helpers who have given me notes on the subjects discussed in this book. I wish also to acknowledge my gratitude to the late Professor Harker, F.L.S., whose lamented death recently occurred. He, from the first, encouraged me to continue my observation of bird-song ; and, in 1890, he devoted a considerable amount of time to harmoniously arranging the results of my investigations.

When I state that Mr. J. E. Harting generously offered to look over the proof-sheets of this work (which offer was, of course, gladly accepted), the public will appreciate the extent of my indebtedness to an author and editor so accomplished. The first 32 pages had then been returned to the printer; but, in revising the remainder, I continually perceived the great advantages derived from Mr. Harting's perusal.

However novel or otherwise may be the theories stated in this book, I can at least claim that, so far as I am concerned, they are absolutely original, all of them having been committed to writing, though, in some instances, not under their present titles, before I consulted any person, or any book, in regard to them.

CHARLES A. WITCHELL.

LONDON, April 1896.

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