

BIRD-WAYS

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Bird-ways by Olive Thorne Miller

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BY

OLIVE THORNE MILLER



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The Bird is not in its ounces and inches, but in its relations to Nature ; and the skin or skeleton you show me is no more a heron, than a heap of ashes or a bottle of gases into which his body has been reduced, is Dante or Washington.
— EMERSON.

INTRODUCTORY.

IN offering to bird-lovers these studies from life, I wish to say that with the exception of an incident or two — properly credited — everything herein recorded came under my own observation, and is literally and entirely true so far as the fact is concerned ; I may have sometimes misunderstood the motives of the little actors in the drama, but the account of their actions may be implicitly relied upon.

Also I should like to explain how a lover of free birds can endure to keep them in confinement. Each inhabitant of a cage in my house has been liberated from the positive discomforts of a bird-store, and besides the unwearied effort to make their lives happy and as free as possible in a room, the moment one shows a desire

for the world outside my windows, he is gladly allowed to depart.

Chapter V. is reprinted from "Harper's Magazine," by courtesy of the proprietors.

OLIVE THORNE MILLER.

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