

**WISCONSIN  
NATURALIST, VOLUME 1,  
NO. 1-4, 6, 8, 9, 11; 1890**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649467778

Wisconsin naturalist, Volume 1, No. 1-4, 6, 8, 9, 11; 1890 by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**VARIOUS**

**WISCONSIN  
NATURALIST, VOLUME 1,  
NO. 1-4, 6, 8, 9, 11; 1890**



15.404

→AUGUST, 1890.←

VOL. I. NO. I.

# WISCONSIN

# NATURALIST

PUBLISHED BY  
**CHAS. F. CARR**  
MADISON, WIS.

Printed and Published by CHAS. F. CARR, Madison, Wis.

## CONTENTS\*FOR\*AUGUST.

	PAGE.
<i>Salutatory</i> .....	1
<i>Do Animals Reason</i> .....REV. GEO. GIBSON.	2
<i>A Trip to the Natural Bridge</i> ..... MRS. E. C. WISWALL.	6
<i>Marine Illumination</i> .....A. N. HINGA.	8
<i>Passenger Pigeon Nesting in Wisconsin</i> .....C. F. C.	9
<i>Black Terns Abandoning Their Nesting Haunts</i> .....C. F. C.	10
<i>Ezeavating a Mound on Shore of Lake Mendota</i> ...W. Y. WOODS.	11
<i>List of Turtles in the Vicinity of Madison</i> .....C. F. C.	11
<i>Random Notes and News—Naturalists' Directory; Battle Between Humming Birds and Sparrows; Catalogue of Minerals; Chokio Mound; Coues' Key</i> .....	12
<i>Agricultural Report; Future Articles; A. A. A. S. Meeting</i> ....	13
<i>The Indoor Aviary</i> .....	13
<i>The Fresh Water Aquarium</i> .....	15

# ⇨ THE ⇨ Wisconsin Naturalist.

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Various Branches of Natural History, In-  
cluding Ornithology, Oology, Entomology, Botany, and  
General Zoology, Taxidermy, Etc.

CHAS. F. CARR, Publisher.

Subscription Rates: 50 Cents per Annum; Foreign Subscribers,  
65 Cents, Invariably in Advance.

Advertising Rates Made Known on Application.

Address—

**THE WISCONSIN NATURALIST,**  
126 State Street, — — — — — Madison, Wisconsin

# The Wisconsin Naturalist.

VOL. I.

MADISON, WIS., AUGUST, 1890.

NO. I.

## SALUTATORY.

THIS journal is the venture of one who is a great lover of Nature and has devoted many years to its study; and who thinks there is room for such a journal. We are aware that many small publications of this nature are launched nearly every day, but like frost crystals in the glare of the noon-day sun, soon fade and melt away. The NATURALIST comes with the intention to remain. We well know that the value of such a publication depends upon the observation and notes of—not one person, but many; much valuable information is secured by the people who love Nature and who keep their eyes and ears open. The NATURALIST desires notes and observations on any branch of Natural History; and our wish is that its readers will help to make it a success in that respect. We all should know more about the many beautiful objects of Nature about us. The pursuit of such information makes our vision more keen, our hearing more sensitive. It adds to our stock of knowledge, multiplies our enjoyments, adds a new object to our minds, and increases activity to our powers. It enlarges the limits of our reasoning and adds to our nature by giving birth to a new thought of the many beautiful forms of Nature, and we wonder, why it was that they escaped our thoughts before.

We shall endeavor to give our readers a journal well worth the price of subscription.

To those who receive this, the first number, we ask you to look it over and if you think it worth the price of subscription, we would be pleased to enter your name on our list.

THE PUBLISHER.

## DO ANIMALS REASON?

BY REV. GEO. GIBSON.

What would contribute more to a proper regard for the Animal Kingdom about us, and prove an enduring helper to human society, than the recognition of their rightful claim to that faculty of understanding which man has from all time so jealously regarded as his own peculiar endowment? Not in the degree that he possesses it to be sure; but somewhat of that higher, impalpable and immaterial force that is not matter, but, what controls and makes it what it is, a living thing.

As far as analogy goes we may unhesitatingly affirm the possession of reason to the Animal Kingdom, and in a higher degree than we are ordinarily inclined to credit them.

And while analogy is not absolute certainty, it crowds certainty very close, and is an instrument next akin to it, among all the mental processes employed in the prosecution of truth.

Now, man is perfectly willing to accord to his humbler brethren of the barn-yard, and field, some degree of mental power, some sort of function by which they can communicate with one another; but he very plainly, says that it is not reason; this is his own especial property, which God has given over to his keeping for the finite and especial purpose of marking him off as a higher and separate form of being. We never take into account the fact that in all this discussion, as to whether animals reason, that we accept ex-parte evidence, testimony all one sided, and that of an interested party, moreover, who has things all his own way. This is no fancy, but sober reality. Man translates Nature, all her phenomena, according to his own conceit; and we know very well, how, in the past he has fearfully mixed things, and time after time has been obliged to revise, retract and modify all that he has done.

And here again, he will repeat the act, reconsider his denial of the reasoning power to the Animal, many of whom are separated from him, perhaps, only by the one power of *articulate-speech*—a power more wonderful than reason to comprehend, and fully as remarkable in its functions.

But now let us look at the matter practically and see what comes of it. It is claimed that the appetites and passions—common to both man and animal—are prompted by, or governed in, that most indefinite *something* called instinct—that we eat, sleep,



drink, instinctively, etc.; or when that internal urgency demands for the material part of our being, the necessary repair, or that there is a sort of automatic machinery within the animal makeup, playing its part according to some occult law of its own, and by which the waste is indicated and made good in and of itself, this is some true and somewhat not true. Hunger, fatigue, etc., are natural phenomena, plain enough, and there is no more indefiniteness as to their operation than there is with respect to many other common matters of life. The word *instinct* as defined by lexicographers and authors generally, is one of the most unsatisfactory and indefinite terms in the language, and in the application to the case in hand is supremely so, the term conveys no meaning. The gratification of the appetites and passions are deliberate actions governed very much by circumstances similar to the desire arising within us, and demanding recognition. The desire for sleep, food, etc., notwithstanding the urgency of the case may be indefinitely postponed—for long or short periods—all of which is a matter in no way connected with instinct, but a decidedly plain, mental affair involving the comparison of cause and effect, long drawn out at times, as the poor well know to their cost.

What is common to both man and animal must be governed by the same rule, and possess common elements. The procuring of food and drink, flight from danger, selection of a place of rest and safety, etc., involves mental calculation, we repeat, which cannot be denied to one and applied to another of the subjects of these common habits.

If we limit our assent to the possession of reason by the brute creation from analogy alone, then there is sufficient evidence to support the claim, for words in any form of language, cannot express more fully the sense of reason than is illustrated daily in the habits of the domestic animals about us. One cannot pick up a newspaper but he will meet some curious anecdote concerning animal sagacity. In fact it is mainly to draw attention to this everyday matter that we are here discussing this topic. The *observed* facts contradict the dreams of learned conceit; and these facts are so many and convincing that any thing like limiting them to the old line of instincts is simply impertinence.

A college president not long since, was preaching in one of our rural districts, when in the course of his remarks he stated that, "animals had no memory." This was not a happy utterance for the college president, nor was it received as a gospel of peace.

It started a hubbub among the country people instantly. The preacher had drawn from books in his library, different conclusions from those friends and companions of the tillers of the soil, who trusted to the more reliable authority of observation and fact. The following extract from the *Zoophilist*, on the memory of dogs, is as good a disclaimer to the professor's theory as can be desired, and it may also be beneficial in aiding him to revise it:

The late Mr. Eyre, a clergyman, left a dog which was very much attached to him, at the country-house of a friend while he left England for a long sojourn abroad. After two years Mr. Eyre returned, arriving at his friend's house at night, and retiring without having the dog called.

Next morning Mr. Eyre was awakened by the dog bursting into his bed-room and leaping upon him with the wildest demonstration of delight.

"How on earth did he know I had arrived?" asked the gentleman of the servant, who brought hot water.

"Oh, sir," the man replied, "it is the most curious thing! As I was cleaning your boots, the dog recognized them and became excited beyond measure, and I have not been able to quiet him until he saw where I was carrying them, and rushed up along with me to your door."

A correspondent of the same English paper relates that he gave away, at a year old, a dog which he was unable to keep in his London home. After eight years the dog was returned to its first owner.

"The dog met me," says the correspondent, "at first as a stranger, and then, with little animated sniffs of inquiry, going round and round me. I remained still for a few moments while she became more and more excited. At last I stooped and patted her, and called her by her name, 'Dee.'"

"On hearing my voice the poor beast gave what I can only describe as a scream of rapture, and leaped into my arms. From that moment she attached herself to me as if she had never left me, and with the tenderest devotion."

Here is a perfectly authentic story told me by a gentleman, the owner of the animal herein mentioned, and is a direct refutation of the college president's theory above described.

A few years ago he had, among the family which he annually transported to his sea-side cottage, a fine dog, having accompanied his master thither the previous year. Upon their arrival at the time in question, the family repaired to the cottage accompanied by the faithful Towser. While endeavoring to make their way inside, there being some little difficulty in turning the lock, the dog was missed from the family group, all standing on the piazza consulting still over the mode of entrance. The dog was, however, discovered at the end of the piazza, on the ground digging, producing a piece of meat, and on finding it in an unsavory condition he left it then and there, for another dog of less fastidious taste. Prompted by curiosity they watched his movements. After aban-

doing the first deposit he proceeded to another obscure spot, where he uncovered a second deposit, made the year previous. By careful inspection, which was accomplished by long smellings and frequent turnings over of the bone, he restored this back to its place, recovered and left it. Then again he goes to the third, and so on to a fourth deposit, inspecting carefully and satisfactorily the surplus rations given to him the season before by the hands he loved to fawn upon in loving acknowledgment for the kind favors he continually received, and all these he had buried for safe keeping.

In these days of "facts and figures" people keep their eyes and ears open and in consequence are wiser in some things, than the people who go through the world in blind theory, they see and hear and as a matter of course *know*, what they see and hear.

Here is a very remarkable circumstance which only recently occurred in another part of the state (Wisconsin), and carries with it a sentiment of a higher grade than we ordinarily accord to the Animal nature. The writer of this article can vouch for the veracity of the parties who give the circumstance publicity. We republish the incident from the *Markesan Herald*:

Christ Abendroth, living near Utley, lost a valuable mare this week, through a rather curious accident that will bear reporting. The mare had given birth to a colt three days previously; of course the mare and colt were kept in a stall together. While the mare was lying down the colt stepped into her halter, and the mare rising to her feet twisted the colt in the halter in such a manner as to draw the noose strap so close as to close her nostrils and prevent breathing. Suffocation of course followed. It would seem that the body of the colt would have been crushed by the rope noose—it being so young—before the mare would have strangled, but it might be possible that the mare was endowed with sufficient human intelligence to understand how matters stood, and possessed sufficient affection for her offspring to stand suffering herself before allowing the colt to be injured. No other reason can be assigned for the course which matters pursued.

Goldsmith wrote his book on Natural History in smoke and hopes, and London fogs, and knew less of the matter than the authors out of whom he gathered his material. To-day the Natural world is brought to us by the patient observer, not by herosay or by proxy. Here is a contribution of a person who keeps his eyes and ears open, which by the way, is the first and necessary requisite to a right understanding of the Natural World about us—it is an extract from the *New York Sun* of recent date:

"I was much interested in a sight that I saw down in the cellar last night," said a patient in one of the hospitals of this city a day or two ago to a fellow patient who was confined to his bed, "and I'll tell you what it was":