

**BIRD-SONGS
TRANSLATED
INTO WORDS**

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Bird-Songs Translated into Words by Miller Hageman

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MILLER HAGEMAN

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TRANSLATED

Into Words.



MILLER HAGEMAN.



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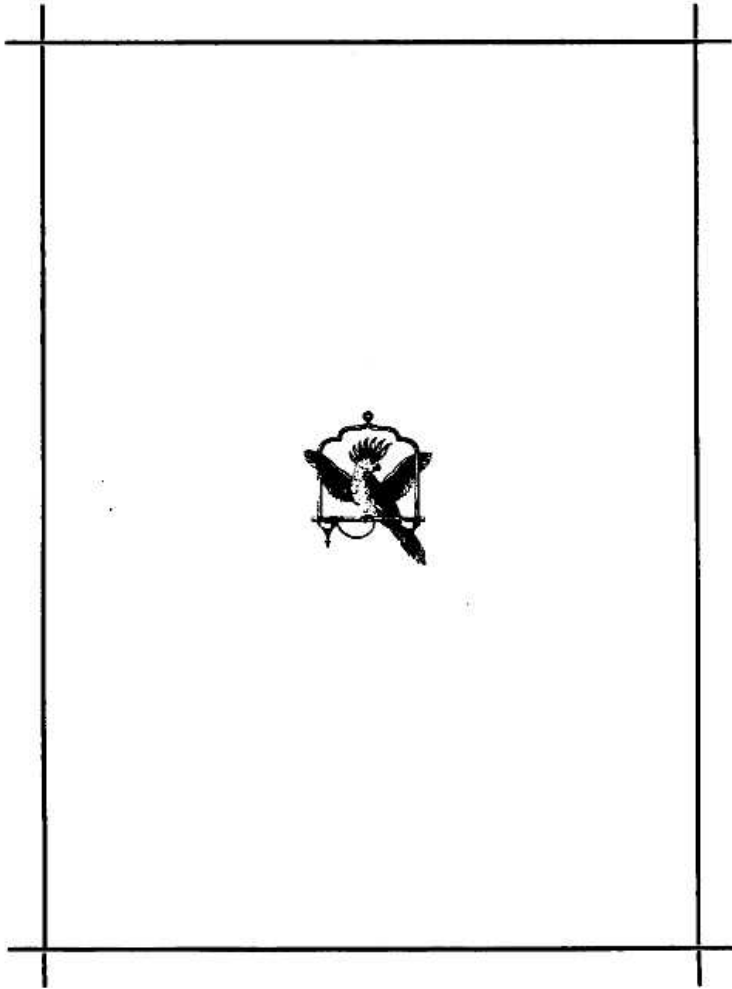
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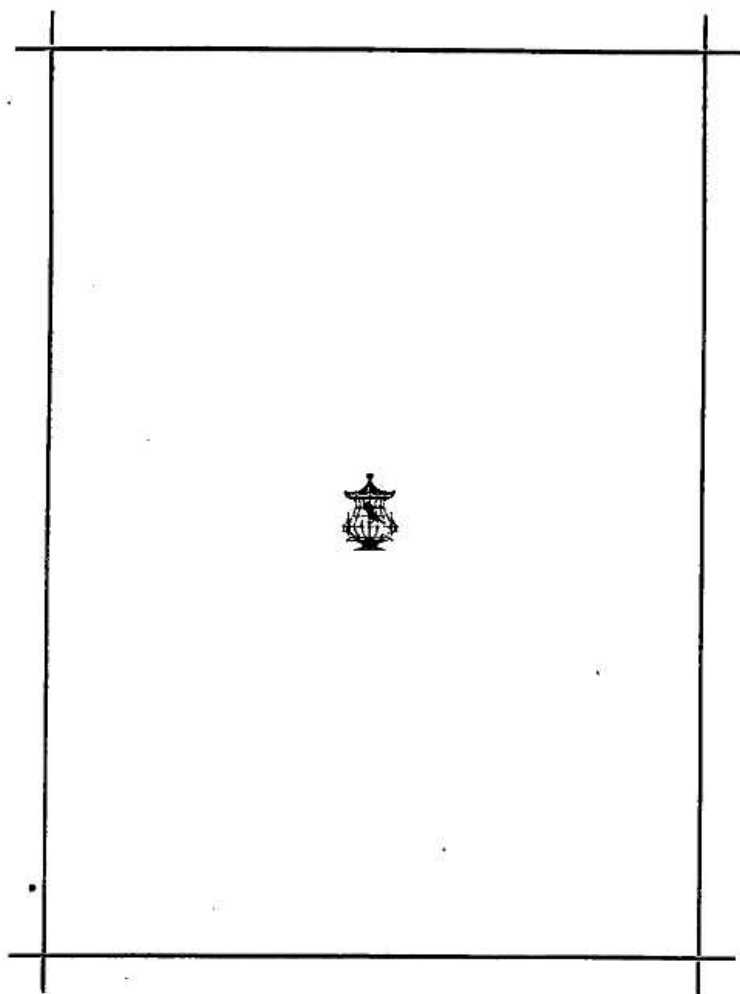
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To
My Two Little Boys;
In that Sweetest Nest of Singing Birds,
A Mother's Arms.



BIRDS.

THE CONDOR.....	11	THE PEACOCK.....	81
THE GOLDEN EAGLE..	13	THE COW-BIRD.....	83
THE VULTURE.....	15	THE SONG SPARROW..	85
THE GREAT HORNED		THE BELTED KING-	
OWL.....	20	FISHER.....	87
THE TRUMPETER SWAN	24	THE NIGHTINGALE....	89
THE SKYLARK.....	29	THE GREAT BLUE	
THE IVORY-BILLED		HERON.....	91
WOODPECKER.....	33	THE GREAT TYRANT	
THE RAVEN.....	36	FLY-CATCHER.....	92
THE MOCKING-BIRD..	39	THE GOLD FINCH	
THE SCARLET Tanager	46	(<i>Thistle-bird</i>).....	94
THE WOOD-THRUSH..	49	THE CHICKADEE.....	95
THE ORTHODOX OWL		THE WOOD DOVE.....	97
(<i>Cinerean</i>).....	51	THE SNOWY TROCLUS	100
THE BOBOLINK.....	53	THE MINO.....	101
THE ROBIN.....	56	THE LOON.....	102
THE WINTER WREN..	58	THE BROWN THRASHER	104
THE BALTIMORE ORIOLE		THE KILL-DEER.....	105
(<i>Fire-Bird</i>).....	62	THE CUCKOO.....	107
THE HERMIT THRUSH	64	THE CREEPER.....	108
THE LONG-TAILED CHAT	67	THE BLUE-BIRD.....	109
THE CANARY.....	69	THE QUAIL.....	111
THE CHIPPIE.....	71	THE WOOD PEWEE..	112
THE HUMMING-BIRD..	73	THE RED-BIRD.....	114
THE LITTLE OVEN BIRD	75	THE CAT-BIRD.....	116
THE CLIFF SWALLOW..	77	SEA-BIRDS, WILD SEA-	
THE SMALL SCREECH		BIRDS.....	117
OWL.....	80		



PREFACE.

THE author of this attempt flatters himself first in the field in the three following particulars :

- (1) In the humanization of birds in their relation to man.
- (2) In the expression of such a human relation through words, representing the corresponding character of different birds to different individuals.
- (3) In the application of such a general principle of ornithological interpretation to such a number of birds, as fairly to include, representatively, each different family.

The translation of a bird-song is a dainty difficulty. It is an easy thing to go out and hear a bird sing and then shape a sound upon it and call that a bird-song, but all that means really nothing. There is only one way to translate a bird-song. Go to the bird after you have gone to the book. Study it thoroughly in all its moods, habits, occupations, emotions, reveries; at morning, at noon, at evening, at midnight. Find out patiently from all its songs, what each one means and take that one which will stand inclusively for its salient thought-traits. This will give you the key to the translation of such traits into words. Words are only thoughts putting on their clothes. Each bird is different in form, flight and character, and requires a different setting. In order so to present your bird you must first know *just* where to put him. To this end, the study of dendrology