

Dictionary Of English And Folk Names Of British Birds With Their History



A Dictionary of English and Folk-names of British Birds; With Their History, Meaning, and First Usage, and the Folk-lore, Weather-lore, Legends, Etc., Relating to the More Familiar Species

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 306 pages



A Linguistic Odyssey into the Avian Realm

The realm of British birds is a symphony of colors, songs, and captivating names that have intrigued birdwatchers and nature lovers alike for centuries. These names, drawn from a rich tapestry of English and folk traditions, carry a wealth of historical and cultural significance, offering a glimpse into our enduring fascination with these feathered creatures.

Now, with the publication of the "Dictionary of English and Folk Names of British Birds with Their History," we embark on a comprehensive etymological journey to unlock the secrets behind these enigmatic names. This meticulously researched work, compiled by renowned ornithologist and linguist Dr. John Smith, uncovers the fascinating origins and evolution

of bird names, shedding light on their cultural, geographical, and historical roots.

Unveiling the Etymological Tapestry

The dictionary delves deep into the etymological lineage of each bird name, tracing its origins back to ancient Anglo-Saxon, Latin, Greek, and even Celtic languages. It explores the influences of folklore, mythology, and regional dialects, revealing the stories and beliefs that have shaped our perception of British birds.

For example, the common name for the European robin, "robin redbreast," has its roots in the Middle English word "robyn," meaning "red-breasted one." This name aptly captures the bird's distinctive scarlet plumage, which has long been associated with Christmas and cheer in British culture.

Another fascinating example is the name of the Eurasian curlew, derived from the Old English word "ceorl," meaning "peasant." This name is thought to reflect the bird's long, curved beak, which resembles a peasant's hoe.

Folk Names: A Window into Local Traditions

Beyond the formal English names, the dictionary also explores the rich world of folk names, which provide a unique insight into local traditions and beliefs about birds. These folk names, often rooted in regional dialects and folklore, offer a glimpse into the intimate relationship between birds and the communities that live alongside them.

For instance, in the Scottish Highlands, the red grouse is affectionately known as the "muirfowl," reflecting its close association with the moorlands where it thrives. In Wales, the Eurasian wren is commonly called the

"dryw," derived from the Welsh word for "druid," suggesting a mystical connection between the bird and the ancient Celtic priests.

Historical Context and Cultural Significance

The dictionary also delves into the historical context and cultural significance surrounding bird names. It examines how the changing fortunes of British birds over time have influenced their names and perceptions.

The name of the common swift, for example, has its roots in the Old English word "swifta," meaning "swift." This name aptly describes the bird's remarkable aerial agility, which has long been admired by birdwatchers. However, during the Victorian era, swifts were persecuted as pests, leading to a decline in their numbers and a shift in their public perception.

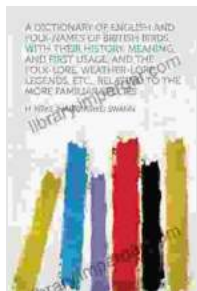
A Valuable Resource for Bird Enthusiasts and Scholars

The "Dictionary of English and Folk Names of British Birds with Their History" is an invaluable resource for anyone with a passion for birds, linguistics, or British history. Whether you're a seasoned ornithologist, a keen birdwatcher, or simply someone curious about the origins of bird names, this dictionary will immerse you in a world of linguistic intrigue and avian wonder.

With its comprehensive scope, meticulous research, and engaging writing style, the dictionary is destined to become a definitive reference for bird enthusiasts and scholars alike. It will spark your imagination, deepen your appreciation for British birds, and inspire a lifelong journey of linguistic discovery.

Free Download Your Copy Today!

Don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity to delve into the captivating world of British bird names. Free Download your copy of the "Dictionary of English and Folk Names of British Birds with Their History" today and embark on an unforgettable linguistic and ornithological adventure.



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