

世界真奇妙英语系列读物

鸟鱼虫擷趣

Wonderful World in English Volumes
Birds, Fish, Worms, the Attractions

吴松林 (主编) 李荣辉 邵 春 王文军 孙玉珍



西安交通大学出版社

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内 容 简 介

本书采用新颖体例,收录了一百五十余个短篇,内容包括鸟林透秘、水族绝活和虫坛逸闻三部分;用地道的英文,以注释形式介绍了大千世界中鸟、鱼、虫之奇妙。本书供具有初级以上英语水平的读者阅读,让读者兴致勃勃地学到英语知识,提高阅读水平。

(陕)新登字 007 号

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责任编辑 亢疆文

西安交通大学出版社出版

西安市咸宁路 28 号 邮政编码 710049

西北工业大学印刷厂印装

陕西省新华书店经销

开本 787×1092 1/32 印张 4.5 字数 90 千字

1993 年 12 月第 1 版 1993 年 12 月第 1 次印刷

印数:1—3000

ISBN7-5605-0586-4/H·50 定价:3.20 元

前 言

世界真“奇妙”这个主题,早已突破空间的界限,为众人喜闻乐道。尤其汉语传播媒介里,这类引人入胜的“开胃剂”不乏其篇。我们有意从这座“奇山”、这片“妙海”中,选择“生物”这个角度,用易于接受的地道的英文,呈现多味的窗口,让大家在茶余饭后学些英语,也寻点乐事。

这套读物每册又可独成一体,供具有初级以上英文程度的读者阅读。

囿于篇幅和有限的材料,收选的内容难免东鳞西爪,希望读者谅解并提出宝贵的意见。

编 者

1993年8月

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Part One

Birds

鸟 部

Polite Birds 懂礼貌的鸟

In Africa there exists a kind of bird with jade green feather. They often hold in their mouths wild flowers and fruits, and dropped them into people's houses. When the birds appear, local people greet them warmly and gave them some foods. They enjoy the foods at ease until they are enough. Strange to say, the birds have not learned to neglect paying frequent calls on the hosts who offer them dinners kindly. But once they are scared, they will never come back.

Notes:

jade 翡翠色

at ease

泰然自若

pay a call on 拜访

scare 惊吓

Bird Lovers 鸳鸯鸟

It is said there live in the world a sort of bird, which, once falling into love, will be inseparable. If, unfortunately, one is dead, the other will subdue its appetite and also meet its death a few days later.

Notes:

fall into love 陷入情网
inseparable 分不开的
subdue its appetite 抑制食欲

Sun Birds 太阳鸟

There lives in China a kind of bird, weighing only four or five grams. Its wings are green, its chest is red, its waist is yellow and its tail is blue. The bird is called "Seven Colour Fair Maiden" because they are colourful and bright under the sun.

Notes:

gram 克
fair maiden 仙女
colourful 色彩缤纷的

Iorn Eaters 食铁鸟

The small birds, whose bodies are big and black but heads small and white, live in the forests

Notes:

Saudi Arábia 沙特阿拉伯

of north Saudi Arabia. They like to eat iron-works, such as nails. Why? There is much hydrochloric acid in their stomachs where the nails can be digested slowly.

iron-works 铁制品
nail 钉子
hydrochloric acid
盐酸
digest 消化

Ruminant Birds 反刍鸟

The American ornithologists found a rare bird which feeds on leaves and can ruminate like cows and sheep. The two pound and red eye bird, whose feet are under its wings, has a double-colored feather, the upper of which is creamy and the lower brown. The bird perches by lakes and in marshes.

Notes:
ruminant 反刍的
ornithologist 鸟类学家
ruminate 反刍
creamy 奶油色的
perch (鸟) 落, 歇
marsh 沼地

Smoking Prohibiter 戒烟鸟

Zhao Duorang, a young worker in Sichuan, keeps a clever thrust, who sings clever and sweet. When its master sleeps late, it will play his eyelashes with

Notes:
thrust 画眉
eyelash 睫毛
beak (猛禽、甲虫之)
嘴

its beak to remind him not to be late for work. But what amazes you mostly is that it CAN help you "give up smoking". Courageously, the bird, once out of the cage, like jumping here and there among crowds of people, and is able to spot a smoker within ten metres. Making up a sure mind, it would fly to the smoker suddenly, catch the cigarettes, extinguish the burning part, tear up the whole piece, and leave the smoker even not any trace of the butt. Then it would stare at the smoker for a while, its head inclining to one side. If the smoker "dares" to light up another piece, the bird would take it by force without hesitation.

amaze 使吃惊
spot 发现
extinguish 熄灭
butt 烟蒂
incline 倾斜

Luminous Birds 发光鸟

This kind of bird has an apro-

Notes:
luminous 发光的

cot oval body on which grows a hard shell. When evening comes, the shell glitters, brighter than that of a small bulb in a flashlight. The local men cage the bird and carry it out as a lamp during night.

apricot 杏黄色
shell 壳
glitter 闪闪发光
bulb 灯泡
flashlight 手电筒

Honey-making Birds 酿蜜鸟

The bird bears a hanging pouch in which raw materials are drawn with a tube to process honey while it's eating its meal. And the bird, full of honey in the bag, spouts juice onto leaves for people to use. The bird lives in north Angola.

Notes: •
honey 蜜
bear 长有
pouch 囊
tube 管
process 加工
spout 喷出
Angola 安哥拉

Bird Tailors 裁缝鸟

There's a kind of leaf-sewing oriole in India. The bird pricks the margins of two palm-leaves with its beak, passes the cobwebs and plant fibres through the holes, and

Notes:
oriole 黄鹂
prick 戳穿
margin 边缘
palm-leaf 棕榈叶

makes up a bag used as its nest.

cubweb 蛛丝

fibre 纤维

nest 巢穴

Colour-fast Birds 褪色鸟

West Africa sees a kind of blazing bird, the colour of which fades fast once being rain-drenched, but returns quickly to normal when it's clearing up.

Notes:

colour-fast 褪色的

blazing 缤纷的

fade 褪色

rain-drenched 被雨

淋的

clear up 天晴

Water-carrying Birds 担水鸟

The bird lives in dried-up cliffs of west Hunan. A water pouch under its crop is the fountain against thirsty. Whenever it drinks at a stream, the bird will fill the pouch until it is round like a ball, that will become a water supply in the next half a dozen days.

Notes:

cliff 峭壁

crop 嗉囊

fountain 源泉

dried-up 干涸的

Lamplight Birds 灯笼鸟

When a female bird is brood-

Notes: