



科普英语注释读物

BIRDS

鸟儿

〔美〕 B. M. Parker 著



科普英语注释读物

Birds

鸟 儿

〔美〕 B. M. Parker 著

卢一生 译注

商 务 印 书 馆

1983 年 · 北京

25R/16

科普英语注释读物

鸟 儿

〔美〕B. M. Parker 著

卢一生 译注

商 务 印 书 馆 出 版

(北京王府井大街 36 号)

新华书店北京发行所发行

北京外文印刷厂印刷

统一书号: 9017·1279

1983 年 4 月第 1 版

开本 787×1092 1/32

1983 年 4 月北京第 1 次印刷

字数 74 千

印数 11,500 册

印张 3 1/8

定价: 0.36 元

译者序言

我们需要鸟,我们必须认识鸟。

世界上的鸟儿共有 9021 种,我国现已发现有 1183 种。在这庞大的鸟族中,有的会翱翔飞舞,有的会跑跳奔驰,有的颜色五彩缤纷,有的歌声悠扬婉转。很多的鸟捕捉害虫,保护庄稼和森林。对于这样丰富多采,并与人类息息相关的鸟类世界,作为一个有文化的劳动者,可以茫无所知吗?

鸟类与哺乳类是由爬行动物演化出来的两大支派,是脊椎动物中最进步的两种动物。研究鸟儿,既可丰富生活内容,更可增长科学知识。世界上许多国家对于鸟儿都很重视。革命导师列宁在内战时期的艰苦岁月中,签署了保护鸟类的法令。英国在一百多年以前即已订出严格保护鸟类的法令。难道我们有着悠久文化历史的中华民族竟能对鸟儿这个科学领域漠然置之吗?

首先要明白的是,什么叫做鸟儿。会飞的就是鸟儿吗?不对!会飞的并不都是鸟儿,鸟儿也并不都会飞。有羽毛的才是鸟儿,凡是鸟儿都有羽毛。各种鸟儿有各种特点:跑得最快的是鸵鸟,一步可跨七米远,时速可达一百余里,比马儿还快;飞得最快的是燕子,时速可达三百里以上;飞得最高的是天鹅,冲天可达九千米,渡越珠峰只等闲。

我国早在古代《诗经》一书里,就对鸟儿作了许多叙述。千百年来,人们都把鸟儿看作是纯良、和睦、优美的象征,多少

文章诗词都与鸟儿有着密切的联系。读一读唐诗“两个黄鹂鸣翠柳，一行白鹭上青天”，能不令人感到：清脆歌声如在耳，绮丽舞姿如在目，自然风光多美好，祖国山河多可爱！能不激励我们热爱生活，为人类更美好的生活而奋斗吗？

《鸟儿》这本书，虽然只讲了几十种鸟，但具有普遍的意义。本书描写细致，文字生动，口语性强，既有助于增长对鸟的知识，也有利于学习英语。因此，现将此书作为英汉对照本加以翻译，并加注释，献给广大的少年朋友们，并衷心祝愿朋友们快乐前进！

译者 谨识

一九七八年十月

CONTENTS

1. Birds 鸟儿	1
2. Bird Families 鸟儿的家族	6
3. Two Woodpeckers 两种啄木鸟	9
4. Three Birds of the Thrush Family 鸫鸟族的三种鸟	14
5. Four Birds of the Blackbird Family 山鸟族的四种鸟	17
6. Birds' Names 鸟儿的名称	22
7. The Robins on the Fire Escape 太平梯上的鸚鸟	26
8. Birds' Nests 鸟窝	37
9. Eggs and Young Birds 蛋和幼鸟	43
10. Birds' Bills 鸟嘴	46
11. A Spoiled Party 一次被糟蹋了的宴会	50
12. Where Birds Live 鸟儿住在哪里	53
13. How Birds Protect Themselves 鸟儿如何自卫	59
14. Bird Helpers 鸟儿助手	61
15. Do You Know Now? 现在你知道了吗?	66
16. See for Yourself 自己去观察	67
参考译文	72

1. Birds

Nancy and John were making up riddles for each other.

"Here is one," John said. "I am thinking of an animal. It has a backbone. It has two legs. It has wings. It is almost all red, but it has some black on it. There is a topknot on its head. What is it?"

"I give up," Nancy said at once. "I don't think your riddle is a good one. I don't think there is any red animal that has wings."^①

"Oh, yes, there is," John told her. "The animal I am thinking of is a cardinal,^② or red-bird. Birds, you know,^③ are animals."

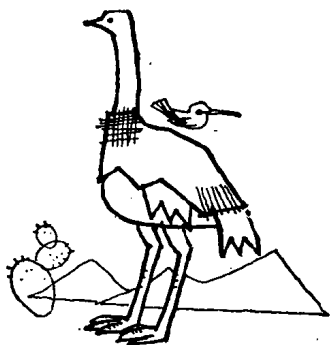


Pic. 1 Cardinal

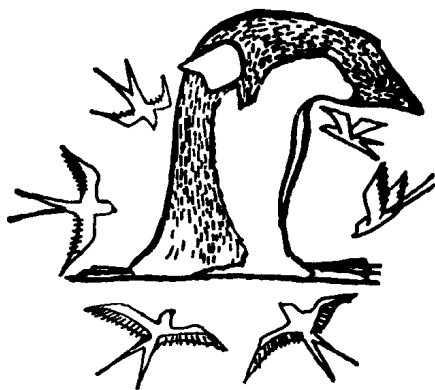
John was right. Birds are animals. Everything alive that

is not a plant is an animal.④ A red-bird is an animal just as a butterfly or a cat or a frog or an elephant is.

There are many kinds of birds. Different kinds of birds are different in many ways.⑤ Some of them are very large.



Pic. 2 Ostrich and Hummingbird



Pic. 3 Penguin and Barn Swallows

from one another.⑧

All birds, of course, are alike in some ways. If John had told Nancy that the animal he was thinking of had feathers,

Some of them are very small. A full-grown ostrich is taller than a tall man and weighs as much as a very large man. A hummingbird is very tiny and weighs less than a penny. Many birds are very good flyers. Some birds cannot fly at all. The swallows are wonderful flyers. The penguins cannot lift themselves off the ground with their wings. Some birds are bright in color.⑥ Some are dull in color.⑦ A song sparrow is not nearly so bright as a cardinal. We might make a long list of ways in which different kinds of birds are different

Nancy could probably have guessed the riddle.^⑨ All full-grown birds have feathers. No other animals have feathers.

Birds are alike in many other ways, too. They are all warm-blooded — that is, their bodies are warm even in cold

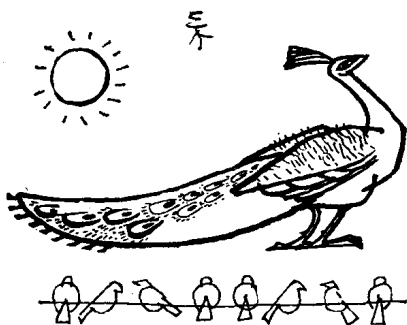


Fig. 4 Peacock and Song Sparrows



Fig. 5 Song Sparrows

weather. They all have a backbone. They all have two legs. They all have lungs just as people do.^⑩ But the feathers are the important thing to look for if you want to know whether an animal is a bird. Every animal with feathers is a bird.

New Words

Nancy ['nænsi] (人名) 南茜
 (Ann, Anna, Anne 的爱称)
 John [dʒɒn] (人名) 约翰
 riddle ['ridl] *n.* 谜语
 animal ['æniməl] *n.* 动物
 topknot ['tɒpnot] *n.* 冠毛
 wing [wiŋ] *n.* 翅膀(鸟翼)
 cardinal ['kɑ:dɪnəl] *n.* 大红鸟
 (北美红雀)
 red-bird ['redbɜ:d] *n.* 红鸟

alive [ə'laɪv] *a.* 活着的, 有生命的
 butterfly ['bʌtəflaɪ] *n.* 蝴蝶
 cat [kæt] *n.* 猫
 frog [frɒg] *n.* 蛙
 elephant ['elɪfənt] *n.* 象
 full-grown ['fʊlgrəʊn] *a.* 发育
 完全的, 成熟了的
 ostrich ['ɒstrɪtʃ] *n.* 鸵鸟
 hummingbird ['hʌmɪŋbɜ:d] *n.* 蜂鸟

penny ['peni] *n.* 便士(一枚小铜币, 1 英镑=100 新便士)
 flyer ['flaɪə] *n.* 飞鸟, 飞机, 飞行员
 swallow ['swɒləu] *n.* 燕子
 wonderful ['wʌndəfʊl] *a.* 奇异的, 出色的
 penguin ['peŋɡwɪn] *n.* 企鹅
 bright [braɪt] *a.* 光亮的, 鲜明的, 鲜艳的
 dull [dʌl] *a.* (颜色)黯淡的, 模糊的

sparrow ['spærəu] *n.* 麻雀
 alike [ə'laɪk] *a.* 相同的, 相似的
 feather ['feðə] *n.* 羽毛
 guess [ges] *vt.* 猜, 推测
 warm [wɔ:m] *a.* 暖和的, 热的
 warm-blooded ['wɔ:mbldɪd] *a.* 热血的
 weather ['weðə] *n.* 天气
 backbone ['bækbəʊn] *n.* 脊椎骨
 lung [lʌŋ] *n.* 肺

Expressions

make up 编造, 配制
 think of 想到, 考虑
 give up 放弃

song sparrow 闹山麻雀(大花麻雀, 英国篱雀)

Notes

- ① I don't think there is any red animal that has wings.
 这是一个复合句, 其结构是“主句 + there 引出的宾语从句”, 而此宾语从句本身也是一个复合句, 其中 that 引出定语从句, 说明 animal.
- ② The animal I am thinking of is a cardinal, ... 这是一个复合句, 其中 “I am thinking of” 是定语从句, 说明 animal. 定语从句的引导词 which 因作介词 of 的宾语, 所以可以省略。
- ③ you know 是插入语, 不作句子成分, 或称作是句子的独立成分。
- ④ Everything alive that is not a plant is an animal. 句中 alive (活着的, 有生命的) 是形容词, 作后置定语, 修饰 everything. that is not a plant 是定语从句, 也是修饰 everything.
- ⑤ ... are different in many ways. 此处的介词短语 in many ways 作状语, 修饰 different, 意为“在许多方面是不同的”。
- ⑥ Some birds are bright in color. 句中的介词短语 in color 作状

语,修饰 bright,意为“在色彩方面是鲜艳的”,即“有着鲜艳的色彩”。

⑦ dull in color, 颜色黯淡。

⑧ We might make a long list of ways in which different kinds of birds are different from one another.

这是一个复合句,介词短语 in which 引出定语从句修饰 ways, 而此短语本身则在定语从句中作状语,修饰“are different”。

主句中的介词短语 of ways 作定语,修饰 list.

主句中的谓语用了“might make”,这并不是一般过去时,而是虚拟语气,表示语气委婉,而不显得坚定生硬。当然,这里也有“假设”的意思,即“我们可以列出一个很长的表”,而实际上未曾列出,也不打算真正去列出。

⑨ If John had told Nancy that the animal he was thinking of had feathers, Nancy could probably have guessed the riddle.

这是一个复合句,用的是虚拟语气,从句的谓语为 had told, 主句的谓语为 could have guessed. 采用这种动词形式,表示所说的情况与过去的实际情况相反。

在 If 引出的条件状语从句中,又包含有由 that 引出的宾语从句,而此宾语从句中又包含有定语从句“he was thinking of”,此定语从句用来修饰名词 animal,从句的引导词 which 因作 of 的宾语,故已省略。

句子的大意是:“如果约翰已经对南茜说明了……,那么南茜就可能已经猜出了……”,因为用的虚拟语气,所以实际情况是“约翰既未曾说明,南茜也未曾猜出”。

⑩ They all have lungs just as people do. 这是一个复合句,其中由 as 引出的是状语从句。从句中的 do 代表主句中的 have lungs, 以免重复。全句可译为:“他们和人是一样的,全都有肺。”

2. Bird Families

What is a bird Family? If someone asked you, you would probably say, "The father bird, the mother bird, and the little birds that hatch from their eggs."^① You would be partly right. A father bird, a mother bird, and the young birds that hatch from their eggs do make one kind of bird family.^② But "bird family" usually means something else. It means a group of different kinds of birds that are alike in a great many ways. All kinds of birds are alike in some ways. But some kinds of birds are alike in more ways than others.

Perhaps you know that the tiger belongs to the cat family. The cat and the tiger are often called "cousins". In the same way, the catbird and the mockingbird are cousins. They both belong to the same family.

You might guess that all the birds that are red would be in one family and that all the blue birds would be in another.^③ But color does not tell which birds are cousins. The crow and the blue jay belong to the same family, although one is black and one is blue. The blue jay and the bluebird do not belong to the same family, although they are both blue. To see which birds are in the same families, scientists have to study the structure of birds — that is, the way the birds' bodies are built.^④ They have to study especially the structure of the birds' wings, bills, and feet.

There are thousands of different kinds of birds. There are more than 750 kinds in our own country. These belong

to many different bird families. Three of the families almost everyone in our country knows about are the woodpecker family, the thrush family, and the blackbird family.⑤

New Words

family ['fæmili] *n.* 家族, 家庭

hatch [hætʃ] *v.* 孵化

tiger ['taigə] *n.* 虎

cousin ['kʌzn] *n.* 亲戚, 远亲

catbird ['kætbə:d] *n.* 猫声鸟
(猫鸟, 猫鹊, 鸫属, 北美洲产,
鸣声如猫)

mockingbird ['mɒkɪŋbə:d] *n.* 反
舌鸟 (模仿鸟, 美洲一种画眉
鸟)

crow [krəʊ] *n.* 乌鸦

jay [dʒeɪ] *n.* 桤鸟

bluebird ['blu:bə:d] *n.* 蓝知更
鸟 (蓝鸟, 蓝衣鸟——鸣声抑扬
有致, 委婉动人; 美国产)

bill [bil] *n.* 喙, 鸟嘴, 鸟的嘴壳

woodpecker ['wudpekə] *n.* 啄
木鸟

thrush [θrʌʃ] *n.* 鸫鸟 (画眉)

blackbird ['blækbə:d] *n.* 山鸟
(黑鸟, 英国画眉, 北美燕八哥)

Expressions

belong to 属, 属于

know about 知道

Notes

- ① If someone asked you, you would probably say, "...". 这是一个复合句, 由三部分组成: 前面由 If 引起条件状语从句, 中间为主句, 后面引号里面的是宾语从句。前两部分的谓语为 "asked ... would say", 这是虚拟语气的谓语形式, 表示假设的情况。
- ② A father bird, a mother bird, and the young birds that hatch from their eggs do make one kind of bird family. 这是一个复合句, that 引出定语从句, 夹在主句中间, 用于修饰 the young birds. 主句的谓语是 do make, 此处的 do 是强调词, 用来加强 make 的语气, make 意为“组成”, do make 意为“的确就组成”。
- ③ You might guess that all the birds that are red would be in

one family and that all the blue birds would be in another.

这是一个复合句,前面的 You might guess 是主句,后面三个 that 引出三个从句。第一个 that 和第三个 that 引出 guess 的两个并列的宾语从句,中间的 that are red 是定语从句,修饰前面的 all the birds.

句中的谓语动词 might guess 和 would be 采用过去式的形式是表示虚拟语气。句末的 another 是指 another family.

- ④ To see which birds are in the same families, scientists have to study the structure of birds — that is, the way the birds' bodies are built.

句首的 To see 为动词不定式,是谓语 have to study 的目的状语,意为“为了看出,为了弄清楚”。which 引出 To see 的宾语从句,which 在从句中作 birds 的定语。that is 是阐释性插入语,其后的 the way 是 the structure of birds 的同位语。句末的 the birds' bodies are built 是定语从句,修饰 the way, 此从句的引导词 in which (在从句中作 are built 的方式状语)已经省略,因为在英语的习惯用法中,way 的定语从句是可以不用引导词的。

- ⑤ 本文的末句是一个复合句,句首的 Three of the families 是主句的主语,其后的 almost everyone in our country knows about 是定语从句,修饰主句的主语。此从句的引导词 that 是从句中 about 的宾语,故已略去。(定语从句的引导词如果是从句中动词或介词的宾语,则可略而不用。)

3. Two Woodpeckers

The woodpecker family is a very large family. There are woodpeckers in almost every land. In our country there are more than twenty kinds. The pictures in this passage show two common birds that belong to the woodpecker family.

Did a red-headed woodpecker ever wake you up in the morning? Sometimes red-headed woodpeckers do wake people up.^① They wake them up by drumming with their bills on a tree or a roof or a telephone pole.



Pic. 6 Red-headed Woodpeckers

Red-headed woodpeckers are good drummers. They do not have good voices. They sing most of their "songs" to one another by drumming.

A red-headed woodpecker digs out its nest in a tree or a pole by pecking. Some of the little chips of wood the woodpecker breaks off^② fall into the hole. These chips make a bed for the eggs.

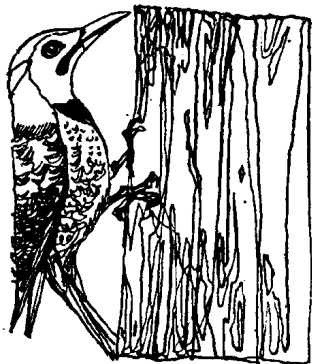
On each foot the red-headed woodpecker has two toes

that point forward and two that point backward. The two toes that point backward help brace the woodpecker when it is drumming or digging a hole for a nest. The woodpecker's tail also helps brace it. The feathers of its tail are stiff. They are pointed at the ends, too.

You can usually tell a red-headed woodpecker by its bright-red head.^③ But young red-headed woodpeckers do not have red heads. Their heads are gray.

Red-headed woodpeckers eat some things which we wish they would not eat.^④ They eat cherries and berries and other kinds of fruit. But they pay for the fruit by eating many kinds of insects that harm us.

Its name does not tell you that the flicker is a woodpecker, but it is. The flicker is often called the "yellow-hammer". The under sides of the bird's wings and tail are bright yellow. The yellow shows very plainly when the flicker is flying.



Pic. 7 Flicker

The colors of the flicker and the red-headed woodpecker are different, but in other ways the birds are much alike. How many ways can you see in which they are alike?^⑤

The flicker eats many ants. Most woodpeckers stay off the ground, but the flicker often comes down to the ground to get ants. A flicker has a long, sticky tongue. It can stretch its tongue for two or three inches beyond the end of its bill. It can catch many ants at one time.

It sometimes eats more than a thousand ants at a meal.

The flicker eats many other kinds of insects, too. Some of the kinds of insects it eats do a great deal of harm to trees.⑥ The flicker is a good friend of our trees because it eats these insects.

The flicker digs a hole for a nest in a tree or a pole just as the red-headed woodpecker does. Flickers are good drummers, too.

The downy woodpecker and the yellow-bellied sapsucker are two of the other birds in the woodpecker family. They are cousins of the flicker and the red-headed woodpecker.

New Words

red-headed woodpecker 红头啄木鸟

drum [drʌm] *v.* 敲打, 打鼓

roof [ru:f] *n.* 屋顶

drummer ['drʌmə] *n.* 敲打者, 击鼓手

dig [dig] *v.* 挖掘

nest [nest] *n.* 巢, 窝

peck [pek] *v.* 啄

chip [tʃip] *n.* 木片, 木屑, 片屑

hole [həʊl] *n.* 孔, 洞, 穴

toe [təʊ] *n.* 趾, 脚趾

forward ['fɔ:wəd] *adv.* 向前, 前头

backward ['bækwəd] *adv.* 向后, 后头

brace [breis] *vt.* 支撑, 撑牢

tail [teɪl] *n.* 尾巴

stiff [stɪf] *a.* 刚硬的

pointed ['pɔɪntɪd] *a.* 尖的, 尖锐的

gray [greɪ] *a.* 灰色的

cherry ['tʃeri] *n.* 樱桃

berry ['beri] *n.* 浆果

insect ['ɪnsekt] *n.* 昆虫, 虫(泛指)

harm [hɑ:m] *vt.* 伤害, 损害

flicker ['flikə] *n.* 金翼啄木鸟 (北美洲东部产)

yellow-hammer ['jeləu-'hæmə] *n.* 岫鸭

plainly ['pleɪnli] *adv.* 明白地, 明显地

ant [ænt] *n.* 蚂蚁

sticky ['stɪki] *a.* 粘性的

tongue [tʌŋ] *n.* 舌, 舌头

stretch [stretʃ] *v.* 伸长

beyond [bi'jɒnd] *prep.* 出于……