

WILD ANIMAL
STORIES
BY
SETON AND ROBERTS

双语爱读 动物星球

张煜 ◎ 丛书主编

西顿和罗伯茨 笔下的 野生动物故事

“现实主义动物小说双雄”经典作品完美呈现

欧内斯特·汤普森·西顿的客观真实

查尔斯·乔治·道格拉斯·罗伯茨的细腻准确

以动物的视角给人类以感动和反思



国防工业出版社
National Defense Industry Press

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欧内斯特·汤普森·西顿 查尔斯·乔治·道格拉斯·罗伯茨 ◎ 著 张煜 ◎ 译



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PREFACE

前言

不读这本书，我们可能永远无法理解野生动物的情感生活和丰富的个性。

不读这本书，我们可能永远不会了解野生动物的生活习性和丛林遭遇。

不读这本书，我们可能永远无法想象动物英雄的高贵品质和严酷的“森林法则”。

有人说过，动物可以没有人类，但是人类不能没有动物。这句话深刻地描摹出人类和动物之间的关系，也让我们体会到动物对我们人类的重要作用。无论是在大自然长期的进化过程中，还是在人类征服大自然的过程中，动物都是生态环境的重要组成部分，人类与野生动物唇齿相依。

在人类的物质文明和精神文明高度发达的今天，生活在钢筋水泥的现代化建筑物中的人类却只能在动物园中观赏到那些个性迥异的野生动物了。有几人能洞察那些野生动物背后的动人故事？

在人类社会关系越来越疏离、越来越复杂的今天，阅读野生动物故事，又能教给我们什么呢？

文明的进步在人类和动物之间划出了一道宽阔的鸿沟，也唤起了我们对于动物的兴趣，人类开始有热情去真正研究动物的特征和生活习性。动物世界是一片充满奇迹的乐土，结满了累累硕果；动物世界是一个毫不闭塞的通路，通向我们温柔的内心世界。以一种感同身受的态度去阅读动物故事，我们眼前的这个世界就会更加宽广，更加充满仁爱精神。动物故事让我们从喧嚣的尘世图囿中，从让我们心神俱疲的自我封闭中获得自由。动物故事让我们重新感受“地球一家”的温情，同时珍惜大自然伟大的智慧结晶和不朽功绩。动物故事让我们重新感悟真挚无邪的生活真谛。动物故事是人类拥有的无价财富，是上天赐予的无尚珍宝。心怀感恩，在我们的心灵和动物的心灵朝夕相处中，我们将会更有更深的理解和感动。

阅读动物故事，我们会有众生一家的宽广胸怀。同人类一样，动物也有自己的思想和感情。那舔犊情深的年轻牛妈妈，为了不让刚刚出生的孩子遭

到黑熊的毒手，毅然决然，主动出击，将黑熊残害牛犊的计划扼杀在摇篮之中。爱子心切的水鸭妈妈，为了庇护孩子，面对强大的人类，宁愿自己做靶子！老狼王洛波为了寻找爱侣，哪怕深陷人类的陷阱也在所不惜！在逃难途中，雌驼鹿筋疲力尽，寸步难行，雄驼鹿宁愿陪着爱人共赴难，也不愿独自逃生！谁说动物没有感情？谁说动物不懂感情？这样的母爱，这样的爱情，与人类的感情相比，相差几许？

野生动物故事虽是动物小说大家庭中“辈分极高”的成员，只是到了现实主义动物小说的肇始者欧内斯特·汤普森·西顿和查尔斯·乔治·道格拉斯·罗伯茨手中，才真正地焕发了青春，成为独领风骚一百多年的文学体裁。

在西顿和罗伯茨笔下，动物不再是披着动物外衣的人类，而是野性十足的飞禽走兽。这两位大家用词准确，观察精细，以文学家的生花妙笔，以历史学家的写作方式，记录了野生动物的各种准确的细节。在写作技巧上，他们根据自己的所见所闻，对野生动物进行了细致入微的细节描写和心理分析，通过塑造一个个性格鲜明、活灵活现的野生动物形象，来反映野生动物的命运。

为什么松鸡妈妈伪装受伤以引开猎人呢？松鸡宝宝们遇到危险会怎么办呢？狐狸妈妈如何训练狐狸宝宝捕捉土拨鼠、田鼠和松鼠？乌鸦队长银斑是如何训练幼鸦的？读者不难在故事中找到答案。这些故事犹如一台忠实的摄像机，将野生动物的生活生动、准确地呈现到我们面前。

作家们似乎还有意无意地表达和讨论了另外一个主题。拿“库特内山羊克拉格”来说：李和山间的一只公羊本为宿敌，不杀不快，可在他亲眼目睹了公羊的英武战斗之后，敬佩之情却油然而生。五十米对任何猎人来说都是一个极具诱惑力的距离，但是他并没有抬起枪杆报仇雪恨。怀着对一个伟大生命的敬畏，他放弃了屠杀，同时他也保留了人类的尊严，用以尊敬另外一个同样强健聪慧的生命。在物竞天择的自然界，英雄的动物个体实际上寄寓了我们人类的价值观和道德观。

同样，“温尼伯狼”的作者似乎也无意间带给了读者这样的思考：为什么狼只跟小孩子吉姆成为朋友呢？因为吉姆是唯一一个用真情待狼的人。小吉姆把温尼伯狼当做一个平等的朋友，他喜爱它，遇到危险时也需要它的庇护。“人之初，性本善”，儿童用还没有被人类自大的厚纱蒙住的双眼观察这个世界，无疑会得出一个更加高明的答案。

人类和动物共同生活在地球这个大家庭之中，自视甚高的我们其实更应该俯下身来，从动物的智慧和精神中汲取些什么。



CONTENTS

目录

PART 1 UNSELFISH MOTHER LOVE 母爱的天堂 1

1. The Story of the Don Valley Partridge Ernest Thompson Seton
顿谷松鸡的故事 2
2. The Mother Teal and the Overland Route 水鸭妈妈陆上飞行记 ... 10
3. Johnny Bear and His Mother 小熊乔尼和他的妈妈 24
4. When Twilight Falls on the Stump Lots 黄昏降临在树桩丛上 ... 30

PART 2 SEVERE LAW OF THE JUNGLE 严酷的森林法则 43

1. Silverspot, the Story of a Crow 乌鸦队长银斑 44
2. The Springfield Fox 春田狐狸的故事 59
3. The Boy and the Lynx 男孩和山猫 65
4. Little Warhorse—The History of a Jack-rabbit
小战马——一只长耳大野兔的故事 73

PART 3 DAUNTLESS HEROES 孤胆英雄 83

1. The Lord of the Air 鹰王 84
2. Monarch: the Big Bear of Tallac 塔拉克的熊王 90

3. The King of the Mamozekel 草原之王 98
4. Badlands Billy—the Wolf that Won 荒地比利——获胜的狼 111
5. The Pacing Mustang 溜蹄的野马 117

PART 4 CONNUBIAL AFFECTION 伉俪情深 125

1. The Invaders 入侵者 126
2. Ram Krag 山羊克拉格的故事 134
3. Lobo: The King of Currumpaw 洛波——格伦堡之王 140

PART 5 MY WILD ANIMAL FRIENDS 我的野兽朋友 169

1. The Watchers of the Camp-Fire 篝火观望者 170
2. The Den of the Otter 水獭的洞穴 177

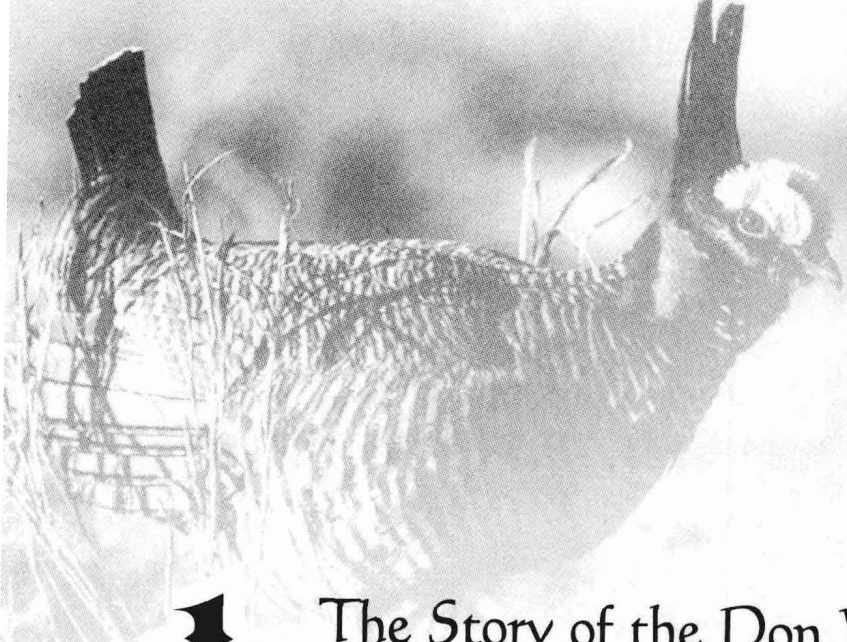




西顿和罗伯茨笔下的 WILD ANIMAL STORIES
野生动物故事 BY SETON AND ROBERTS

PART 1

UNSELFISH MOTHER LOVE
母爱的天堂



I The Story of the Don Valley Partridge Ernest Thompson Seton 顿谷松鸡的故事



Ernest Thompson Seton
欧内斯特·汤普森·西顿

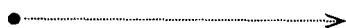
DOWN THE wooded slope of Taylor's Hill the Mother Partridge led her brood; down toward the crystal brook that by some strange **whim**¹ was called Mud Creek. Her little ones were one day old but already quick on foot, and she was taking them for the first time to drink.

She walked slowly, crouching low as she went, for the woods were full of enemies. She was uttering a soft little **cluck**² in her throat, a call to the little balls of **mottled**³ down that on their tiny pink legs came **toddling**⁴ after, and peeping softly and plaintively if left even a few inches behind, and seeming so fragile they made the very **chickadees**⁵ look big and coarse. There were twelve of them, but Mother **Grouse**⁶ watched them all, and she watched every bush and tree and thicket, and the whole woods and the sky itself. Always for enemies she seemed seeking—friends were too scarce to be looked for—and an enemy she found. Away across the level **beaver**⁷ meadow was a great brute of a fox. He was coming their way, and in a few moments would surely wind them or strike their trail. There was no time to lose.

"Krrr! Krrr!" (Hide!! Hide!) cried the mother in a low firm voice, and the little bits of

things, scarcely bigger than acorns and but a day old, scattered far (a few inches) apart to hide. One dived under a leaf, another between two roots, a third crawled into a curl of **birch**⁸ bark, a fourth into a hole, and so on, till all were hidden but one who could find no cover, so squatted on a broad yellow **chip**⁹ and lay very flat, and closed his eyes very tight, sure that now he was safe from being seen. They ceased their frightened peeping and all was still.

Mother Partridge flew straight toward the dreaded beast, **alighted**¹⁰ fearlessly a few yards to one side of him, and then flung herself on the ground, **flopping**¹¹ as though winged and lame—oh, so dreadfully lame—and **whining**¹² like a distressed puppy. Was she begging for mercy—mercy from a bloodthirsty, cruel fox? Oh, dear no! She was no fool. One often hears of the cunning of the fox. Wait and see what a fool he is compared with a mother-partridge. **Elated**¹³ at the prize so suddenly within his reach, the fox turned with a dash and caught—at least, no, he didn't quite catch the bird; she flopped by chance just a foot out of reach. He followed with another jump and would have seized her this time surely, but somehow a **sapling**¹⁴ came just between, and the partridge dragged herself awkwardly away and under a log, but the great brute snapped his jaws and hounded over the log, while she, seeming a **trifle**¹⁵ less lame, made another clumsy forward spring and tumbled down a



1. **whim** *n.* 一时的兴致, 突然的念头, 突发奇想, 异想天开
2. **cluck** *n.* (母鸡) 咯咯声
3. **mottled** *adj.* 杂色的, 斑驳的
4. **toddle** *vi.* 蹒跚行走
5. **chickadee** *n.* 山雀类
6. **grouse** *n.* 松鸡; 松鸡肉
7. **beaver** *n.* 海狸
8. **birch** *n.* 桦树, 桦木
9. **chip** *n.* 屑片, 薄片, 碎片 *vt.* 削, 切, 削成碎片; 使摔倒; 凿 *vi.* 削下屑片
10. **alight** *vi.* 飞落
11. **flop** *vi.* (笨拙地、不由自主地或松弛地) 移动或落下
12. **whine** *vi.* 哀号 *vt.* 哀诉, 诉怨 *n.* 哀号, 悲嗥声, 哀诉
13. **elated** *adj.* 兴高采烈的, 得意洋洋的
14. **sapling** *n.* 幼树, 树苗
15. **a trifle** 有点儿, 稍微

bank, and **Reynard**¹⁶, keenly following, almost caught her tail, but, oddly enough, fast as he went and leaped, she still seemed just a trifle faster. It was most extraordinary. A winged partridge and he, Reynard, the Swift-foot, had not caught her in five minutes' racing. It was really shameful. But the partridge seemed to gain strength as the fox put forth his, and after a quarter of a mile race, racing that was somehow all away from Taylor's Hill, the bird got **unaccountably**¹⁷ quite well, and, rising with a **derisive**¹⁸ **whirr**¹⁹, flew off through the woods leaving the fox utterly dumfounded to realize that he had been made a fool of, and, worst of all, he now remembered that this was not the first time he had been served this very trick, though he never knew the reason for it.

Meanwhile Mother Partridge **skimmed**²⁰ in a great circle and came by a roundabout way back to the little fuzz-balls she had left hidden in the woods.

With a wild bird's keen memory for places, she went to the very grass-blade she last trod on, and stood for a moment fondly to admire the perfect stillness of her children. Even at her step not one had stirred, and the little fellow on the chip, not so very badly concealed after all, had not budged, nor did he now; he only closed his eyes a tiny little bit harder, till the mother said:

"K-reet!" (Come, children) and instantly like a fairy story, every hole gave up its little baby-partridge, and the **wee**²¹ fellow on the chip, the biggest of them all really, opened his big-little eyes and ran to the shelter of her broad tail, with a sweet little "peep peep" which an enemy could not have heard three feet away, but which his mother could not have missed thrice as far, and all the other **thimblefuls**²² of down joined in, and no doubt thought themselves dreadfully noisy, and were **proportionately**²³ happy.



16. **Reynard** *n.* (民间故事中的) 列那狐; [reynard] 狐狸
17. **unaccountably** *adv.* 不可解释地, 不能说明地, 无责任的
18. **derisive** *adj.* 嘲笑的, 嘲弄的
19. **whirr** *n.* 呼呼声
20. **skim** *vt.* 撇去 *vt. & vi.* 掠过, 轻轻擦过; 略读, 浏览
21. **wee** *adj.* 很少的, 微小的, 很早的 *n.* 一点点, 一会儿; 极小的空间
22. **thimbleful** *n.* (酒等的) 极少量; 一点儿
23. **proportionately** *adv.* 相称地, 成比例地

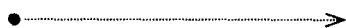
The sun was hot now. There was an open space to cross on the road to the water, and, after a careful lookout for enemies, the mother gathered the little things under the shadow of her spread **fantail**²⁴ and kept off all danger of sunstroke until they reached the **brier**²⁵ thicket by the stream.

Here a **cottontail**²⁶ rabbit leaped out and gave them a great scare. But the flag of **truce**²⁷ he carried behind was enough. He was an old friend; and among other things the little ones learned that day that **Bunny**²⁸ always sails under a flag of truce, and **lives up to**²⁹ it too.

And then came the drink, the purest of living water, though silly men had called it Mud Creek.

At first the little fellows didn't know how to drink, but they copied their mother, and soon learned to drink like her and give thanks after every sip. There they stood in a row along the edge, twelve little brown and golden balls on twenty-four little pink-toed, in-turned feet, with twelve sweet little golden heads gravely bowing, drinking and giving thanks like their mother.

Then she led them by short stages, keeping the cover, to the far side of the beaver-meadow, where was a great grassy **dome**³⁰. The mother had **made a note of**³¹ this dome some time before. It takes a number of such domes to raise a brood of partridges. For this was an ant's nest. The old one stepped on top, looked about a moment, then gave half a dozen vigorous rakes with her claws. The **friable**³² ant-hill was broken open, and the earthen **galleries**³³ scattered in ruins down the slope. The ants swarmed out and quarreled



24. **fantail** *n.* 扇状尾; 扇尾鸽

25. **brier** *n.* 荆棘; 野蔷薇

26. **cottontail** *n.* 棉尾兔 (一种产于北美洲的野兔)

27. **truce** *n.* 休战, 停战 (协定); 停止争辩 (的协议)

28. **bunny** *n.* 兔子

29. **live up to** 达到高标准; 不辜负; 实行; 履行

30. **dome** *n.* 圆屋顶; 圆盖; 穹窿; 丘

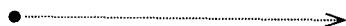
31. **make a note of** 把……记下来

32. **friable** *adj.* 脆的, 易碎的

33. **gallery** *n.* 走廊, 阳台; 美术陈列室[馆], 画廊; (戏院中)最高的楼座; (议会等的)旁听人; 高尔夫球赛的观众; 地(下通)道; 暗渠; 平巷; 坑道

with each other for lack of a better plan. Some ran around the hill with vast energy and little purpose, while a few of the more sensible began to carry away fat white eggs. But the old partridge, coming to the little ones, picked up one of these juicy-looking bags and clucked and dropped it, and picked it up again and again and clucked, then swallowed it. The young ones stood around, then one little yellow fellow, the one that sat on the chip, picked up an ant-egg, dropped it a few times, then yielding to a sudden impulse, swallowed it, and so had learned to eat. Within twenty minutes even the runt had learned, and a merry time they had scrambling after the delicious eggs as their mother broke open more ant-galleries, and sent them and their contents rolling down the bank, till every little partridge had so crammed his little **crop**³⁴ that he was positively misshapen and could eat no more.

Then all went cautiously up the stream, and on a sandy bank, well screened by **brambles**³⁵, they lay for all that afternoon, and learned how pleasant it was to feel the cool powdery dust running between their hot little toes. With their strong bent for copying, they lay on their sides like their mother and scratched with their tiny feet and flopped with their wings, though they had no wings to flop with, only a little tag among the down on each side, to show where the wings would come. That night she took them to a dry thicket near by, and there among the crisp, dead leaves that would prevent an enemy's silent approach on foot, and under the **interlacing**³⁶ briers that kept off all foes of the air, she cradled them in their feather-**shingled**³⁷ nursery and rejoiced in the **fulness**³⁸ of a mother's joy over the wee **cuddling**³⁹ things that peeped in their sleep and **snuggled**⁴⁰ so trustfully against her warm body.



34. **crop** *n.* 庄稼, 农作物; 收获; 产量; 一批, 大量; (鸟的) 嗉囊; (家畜的) 耳印; (树等的) 顶, 梢
35. **bramble** *n.* 荆棘
36. **interlacing** *n.* 隔行, 间行
37. **shingle** *v.* 苫盖
38. **fulness** *n.* 充满, 丰富
39. **cuddle** *vt. & vi.* 拥抱, 怀抱 *vi.* 依偎着睡 *n.* 搂抱; 拥抱
40. **snuggle** *vt. & vi.* 依偎; 舒适的蜷伏; 拥抱

译赏

松鸡妈妈带着自己的孩子们走下满是树木的泰勒山山坡，朝着一条小溪走去。不知谁突发奇想，竟将这条清澈见底的小溪命名为“泥溪”。她的宝宝们刚出生一天，但腿脚已经很灵便了。她这是第一次带他们去饮水。

她蹲伏着身子，走得很慢，因为树林里到处是天敌。她轻声召唤着绒毛斑驳的孩子们，他们正用粉红色的小腿蹒跚地走着，即使被落下几英寸远，他们也会唧唧地叫个不停，叫声既柔和又可怜。

他们看起来非常脆弱，和他们一比，就连小山雀都显得粗大强壮。总共有十二只松鸡宝宝，松鸡妈妈不仅要照管好每个孩子，还得盯紧每片灌木丛、每一棵树，盯紧整个树林和天空。她似乎总是在寻找敌人，因为朋友太少了，很难找得到，她果然发现了一个天敌——一只高大凶残的狐狸正穿过平坦的海狸牧场朝他们的方向走来。他肯定不一会儿功夫就能截住他们或者发现他们的踪迹。时间越来越紧迫。

“咯——咯——！（隐蔽！隐蔽！）”松鸡妈妈低声叫。那些还不如橡果大，刚出生一天的小家伙立刻在几英寸之内分散开藏了起来。有的一头钻进一片叶子底下，有的藏在两个树根之间，有的爬进卷起的桦树皮里，还有的钻进了洞里，不一而足。每只小松鸡都藏好了，剩下一只找不到任何遮盖物，只好蹲在一片宽大的黄树叶上，平平地躺下，紧紧地闭上了双眼，保证自己很安全不会被发现。他们不再吓得唧唧叫，而是全都一动不动。

松鸡妈妈径直飞向那只可怕的野兽，毫不畏惧地飞到狐狸的一侧，飞了几码后，扑倒在地上，好像翅膀折断了一样重重地落下。天啊，她跛得太厉害了，像一条悲伤的小狗一样哀号着。她是在向这只血腥残忍的狐狸乞求同情吗？绝对不会的，她没有那么傻。人们常常听说狐狸是多么狡猾，看这只狐狸与松鸡妈妈一比显得多么愚蠢。狐狸看到猎物突然离自己这么近，非常高兴，他猛地转身去抓她——不过没抓住，至少没完全抓住她，恰巧还差一英尺。狐狸接着又跳起来，心里想这一次肯定能逮到她，但不知道为什么一根树苗又挡在了中间。松鸡妈妈趁机笨拙地把身子挪到一根木头下面，但这个高大凶残的畜牲在木头上方纠缠着不走，咬得牙齿啪啪作响。此时松鸡妈妈好像瘸得不那么厉害了，她再一次笨拙地向前一跳，滚下一个土丘。狐狸紧紧地跟在后面，差点抓住她的尾巴。不过，说来奇怪，尽管狐狸跑起来、跳起来都很快，松鸡妈妈似乎总是快那么一点点。真是太奇怪了。脚步超快的狐狸竟然在五分钟的追赶中没能抓到一只折断翅膀的老松鸡，这对他来说简直是奇耻大辱。这时，狐狸开始重整旗鼓，松鸡妈妈似乎又获得了力量，跑过了四

分之一英里后，他们已跑出了泰勒山。松鸡妈妈奇迹般地腿也不瘸了，她飞了起来，发出嘲笑般的咯咯声，穿过树林飞走了，只剩下呆若木鸡的狐狸。这时，他才意识到自己被戏弄了。最糟糕的是，他现在才想起他已经不是第一次栽倒在类似的小花招上了，但他从来都没弄明白到底是为什么。

与此同时，松鸡妈妈兜了一个大圈子，绕道回到那些被她留下来藏在树林里的孩子们的身边。

松鸡妈妈的方位感很强，她准确地回到了上次踩过的那片树叶旁，站了一会儿，发现孩子们一动不动，她既是怜爱又是称赞。孩子们一开始就听到了她的脚步声，但谁也没有动一动。躺在草叶上的那个小家伙隐藏得挺好，之前没动过，现在也没动，他只是稍微用力地闭着双眼，直到妈妈呼唤：

“咯——哩——哩（出来吧，孩子们）！”霎时就像神话故事里描述的那样，每个小松鸡都从藏身处钻了出来，躺在草叶上的小家伙也睁开了他那一大一小的眼睛，唧唧地叫着跑向“避风港”——妈妈宽大的尾巴底下。他的叫声敌人在三英尺以外的地方是听不见的，但妈妈在这三倍的距离外都能听得清清楚楚。其他的毛茸茸的小东西也唧唧地叫着跑进妈妈宽大的尾巴下，不用说他们自己肯定也觉得闹哄哄的，但非常高兴。

此时，太阳正火辣辣地烤着地面，在通往水源的路上有一块开阔的空地。松鸡妈妈仔细地查看敌情后，把孩子们集中到她那宽大的扇尾下面，这样在到达溪边的灌木丛之前，他们就不会中暑。

正当这时，一只白尾野兔跳了出来，着实吓了他们一跳。但他背后竖起的那面“大白旗”足以说明一切了。他是个老朋友了。那天小松鸡还了解到兔子们一直都竖着白旗，真是名副其实。

后来他们来到了溪边，这是流水中最纯净的水，愚蠢的人们却叫它“泥溪”。

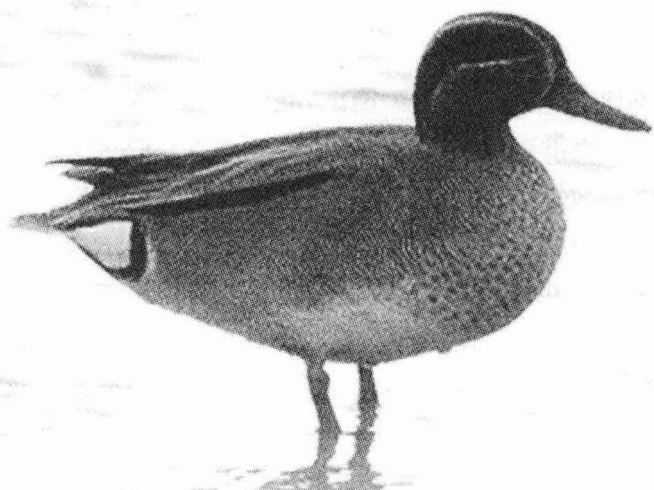
起初，这些小家伙们不知道怎样喝水，但他们模仿妈妈的样子，很快就学会了，每喝一小口都要点头致谢。他们沿着溪边站成一排。二十四只脚趾粉红、向内弯曲的小脚支撑着十二个圆嘟嘟的小身体，有棕色的，也有金黄色的；十二个金黄色的小脑袋和妈妈一样，庄重地低下去，饮水，然后致谢。

喝完水之后，松鸡妈妈继续撑起翅膀，带着孩子们一小步一小步地迈向海狸牧场的另一头，那里有一个长满草的大土丘。松鸡妈妈以前就注意到这个土丘了，要养活一窝松鸡宝宝，需要很多个这样的土丘，因为它是蚂蚁的巢穴。松鸡妈妈踏上土丘顶，观察了一会儿，然后用爪子使劲地挠了几下，不结实的蚁山被抓开了，那些土制的蚂蚁通道遭到毁坏，散落开来滚下山坡。蚂蚁倾巢而出，他们为想不出一

个好对策来对付松鸡而争吵不休。一些蚂蚁绕着小山，毫无目的地拼命乱跑，一些比较理智的蚂蚁开始带着自己白白胖胖的蚁蛋跑。松鸡妈妈来到松鸡宝宝跟前，捡起多汁的蚁蛋咯咯地叫着，然后放下，再捡起，再咯咯地叫，最后把它吞掉。松鸡宝宝们都围着她站着，一会儿一只黄色的小家伙，也就是坐在树叶上的那个，捡起一只蚁蛋，放下好几次，后来一时冲动把它吞掉了，他就这样学会了吃东西。不到二十分钟，就连最孱弱的小松鸡都学会了吃东西。妈妈破开更多的蚂蚁通道，把里面的蚁蛋滚下土丘，这时他们就会追在美味的蚁蛋后面抢着去吃，直到每只小松鸡都把小喙囊塞得满满的，撑得变了形，吃到不能再吃为止。

随后，他们又小心翼翼地往上走，回到小溪边，在荆棘掩盖的沙堤上躺了一下午。他们发现凉丝丝的细沙滚过热乎乎脚尖真是令人心旷神怡。在强烈模仿欲的驱使下，他们学着妈妈的样子侧身躺着，小脚抓挠着地面，翅膀不停地拍打着，尽管他们并没有翅膀，但在他们身体两侧各有一小撮绒毛，翅膀会从这里长出来。那天晚上松鸡妈妈带孩子们去了附近一个干燥的灌木丛，他们周围是又干又脆的枯叶，可以防止天敌偷偷地靠近。他们的上方是纵横交错的荆棘，可以防止飞行类天敌的攻击。妈妈把孩子们搂抱在翅膀底下，小家伙们踏实地偎依在母亲温暖的身体旁，唧唧地叫着进入了梦乡，松鸡妈妈也沉浸在当妈妈的喜乐之中。





2 The Mother Teal and the Overland Route 水鸭妈妈陆上飞行记



Ernest Thompson Seton
欧内斯特·汤普森·西顿

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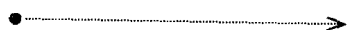
A green-winged Teal¹ had made her nest in the sedge² by one of the grass-edged pools that fleck³ the sunny slope of the Riding Mountain. The passing half-breed⁴, driving his creaking⁵ ox-wagon, saw only a pond with the usual fringe of coarse grass, beyond which was a belt of willow scrub⁶ and an old poplar-tree. But the little Teal in the rushes⁷, and her neighbors, the Flickers⁸, on the near-by poplar, saw in the nestling pool a kingdom, a perfect paradise, for this was home. Now was the ripeness of the love-moon, with the mother-moon at hand in its fulness⁹ of promise. Indeed, the little Flickers had almost chipped¹⁰ their glassy shells, and the eggs, the ten treasures of the Teal, had lost the look of mere interesting things, and were putting on, each, an air of sleeping personality, warm, sentient¹¹, pulsatory¹², and almost vocal.

The little Teal had lost her mate early in the season. At least, he had disappeared, and as the land abounded in deadly foes, it was fair to suppose him dead. But her attention was fully taken up with her nest and her brood.

All through the latter part of June she **tended**¹³ them carefully, leaving but a little while each day to seek food, and then covering them carefully with a **dummy**¹⁴ **foster-mother**¹⁵ that she had made of down from her own breast.

One morning, as she flew away, leaving the dummy in charge, she heard an **ominous**¹⁶ **crackling**¹⁷ in the thick willows near at hand, but she wisely went on. When she returned, her neighbor, the Flicker, was still uttering a note of alarm, and down by her own nest were the fresh tracks of a man. The dummy mother had been disturbed, but, strange to tell, the eggs were all there and unharmed.

The enemy, though so near, had been **baffled**¹⁸ after all. As the days went by, and the grand finish of her task drew near, the little Green-wing felt the mother-love growing in her heart to be ready for the ten little prisoners that her devotion was to set free. They were no longer mere eggs, she felt, and sometimes she would talk to them in low **raucous**¹⁹ tones, and they would seem to answer from within in whispered “peepings,” or perhaps in sounds



1. **teal** *n.* 水鸭
2. **sedge** *n.* <植> 莎草
3. **fleck** *n.* 斑点, 小点 *vt.* 使有斑点
4. **half-breed** *n.* <美> 混血儿 (尤指美洲印第安人与白人的混血儿)
5. **creak** *vi.* (门) 嘎吱作响
6. **scrub** *n.* 矮树; 灌木丛
7. **rush** *n.* 灯心草
8. **flicker** *n.* (火光) 闪烁, 摇曳; 扑动; 忽隐忽现 (鸟) 扑动翼
9. **fulness** *n.* 充满, 丰富
10. **chip** *n.* 碎片; 缺口 *vt. & vi.* (使) 切掉碎片
11. **sentient** *adj.* 能感知或感觉事物的
12. **pulsatory** = **pulsant** *adj.* 脉动的, 搏动的
13. **tend** *vt.* 照料, 照顾, 伺候
14. **dummy** *n.* 仿制品; 橡皮奶头
15. **foster-mother** *n.* 保育器, 育雏器
16. **ominous** *adj.* 不吉的, 不祥的
17. **crackle** *vi.* 发出轻微的爆裂声, 发出噼啪声
18. **baffle** *vt.* 使困难, 使为难
19. **raucous** *adj.* 粗声的; 沙哑的