

## Add Lasting Beauty To Your House

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about the 24th of April, but the yellow warbler does not come until the 15th of May. Immediate local weather conditions seem to have no great effect on bird movements, and their spring advance northward follows to a remarkable degree the course of the corresponding isothermal line. Thus, as Professor Cooke has shown, its advance northward is almost coincident with the isotherm of 50 deg., that is, when the average daily temperature has risen to 52 deg. F. the yellow warbler may be expected to arrive.

The matter of actual journeys performed by birds is most interesting and so amazing that one can scarcely believe such migrations possible. I have space for but a few instances, and these, remember, are actual instances of yearly movements performed by all the members of a species. They are not imaginative theories or extraordinary flights of single individuals.

Our hummingbirds winter in Central America. The bobolinks of our Manitoba prairies spend the winter in far off Brazil.

Most strange are the long flights where in going and coming two different routes are used. An example of this is shown on the map. The golden plover nests on the Arctic islands (marked "one" on map); it passes the winter in Brazil on the other side of the world (2 on map), to reach which it strikes boldly from Nova Scotia, 2,400 miles of unrelenting flight across the open sea. Not is it fatigued for the birds seldom stop on the West Indian islands, but pass on, without pausing, to the mainland of South America.

A more incredible journey still is that of the wheatear. This little bird nests in Labrador and winters, where do you think?—in Morocco and the West Coast of Africa. Striking eastward the birds go from Labrador to Greenland, thence to England and France, then southward thru Spain and across the Mediterranean to Africa. In spring they return by the same route. Sometimes a few wheatears seem to lose their way, and, going south instead of east, they arrive in the Bermudas and Bahama.

Longest of all is the journey of the Arctic tern. This bird nests within the Arctic circle (3 on map) and winters within the Antarctic (4 on map), performing twice yearly the marvellous journey of 11,000 miles.

And now we ask why these seemingly unnecessary travels over half the wide world, why this irresistible response to some instinct that guides birds yearly from the tropics to the farthest northern lands? Bird migration perhaps began after the ice of the glacial period had melted. The birds seeking new and wider areas followed closely the melting icefields, yet withdrawn with each return of winter, to their former restricted southern home. Migration routes, as we see them today, are the result of ages of weather conditions and geological change. Thus the golden plover uses route A in spring time and route B in autumn, because in springtime the Atlantic coast is fog bound and barren of food, while the interior, warmed by the chinook winds, gives favorable warmth and abundant food. Returning in autumn they are well fed and can perform without pause the 2,400 mile sea flight from Labrador to South America, a route much shorter than the spring land journey. Years pass and climates change, but still the birds pursue their old highway of travel.

Bird migration may therefore teach more than present-day bird behavior—it may tell of lands now sunken in the sea, of warm countries now cold with Arctic ice, of ancient forests long since dust.

In one of his recent syndicated newspaper articles, Herbert Quick states: "According to a leaflet of the American Economic League, Gen. P. Elias Cullen, governor of the Mexican State of Sonora, is an awful wreck."

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