



QUEER BIRDS.

One day last summer, while Ella and Tom were in the country, they went down to wade in the creek, and saw some queer-looking birds. Their legs were so long that Tom said they were practising on stilts. They had long, sharp bills, which they stuck into the mud "clear up to their eyes," as Ella explained to her father when they returned to the house.

"And they couldn't sing a bit good," said Tom; "they just squeaked."

"Why didn't you catch some of them, Tom?" said his father.

"Couldn't, papa; I tried."

"You ought to have put some salt on their tails."

"Oh, but they didn't have any tails to put salt on," said Tom.

Do any of our little readers know the name of these birds?