

vocal chords are capable of producing, he can be highly entertaining, especially—but in justice be it said that he is not often guilty of such weakness—when his mood leads him to believe he is endowed with the gift of song.

It would be superfluous to offer anyone, be his or her knowledge of avian talents and attainments ever so slight, the information that the crow does not rank with the song birds. It may not be so well known, however, that this fact is not always recognised by this otherwise up-to-date bird himself; but the range of tones presented in the guttural chucklings, the tuneless liltings in a falsetto voice—suggestive though they always are, of a mind free from care—besides the yells already described, and other sounds indescribable, which go to make up the recitals of my would-be songster—have at least the merit of being something out of the beaten path of bird minstrelsy. The public is cordially invited to be present at these performances, which generally take place in the midst of a group of stout evergreens in the garden, the principal performer not being, to all appearances, troubled by any doubts of his popularity as an entertainer. It disturbs his equanimity not the slightest to know that his methods are regarded with the strongest disapproval by the regularly qualified songsters around him, who, he cannot but be aware, never fail to take themselves out of hearing when he starts his overture—usually a series of terrific yells. He continues with unruffled serenity, until suddenly losing interest in this means of passing the time pleasantly, he drops from his tree and appears before the presiding genius of the kitchen with a demand for refreshments.

Such are some of the distinguishing characteristics and daily occupations of my feathered jester, Jim Crow.

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The Soirée Committee met last week and prepared a tentative programme which will be completed this week. It was decided to hold the first soirée on Nov. 28th. A feature of this season's programme will be the unusually large number of illustrated lectures.