

My Mini Book of

# Bird Children

The images and text in this book were first published  
in 1912 in a larger collection called  
*Bird Children: The Little Playmates of the Flower Children.*

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# Bird Children



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Illustrated by M.T. Ross



Said Nightingale: "It's not my way  
 To practice singing in the day,  
 But wait till all the rest are through  
 And I will gladly sing for you."



Canary-bird said to his mother:  
 "Is that bird in the tree my brother?"  
 Mama Canary said: "Oh, no!  
 He's just a cousin — wild, you know."





Ivory-billed Woodpecker said: “Dear me!  
 They’re cutting down my family tree;  
 Where can I live, I’d like to know,  
 If men will spoil the forest so?”



Meadowlark has a flute-like voice,  
 Sings a song that’s very choice;  
 Builds his nest low, near the ground,  
 With woven grasses arched around.



Cardinal Bird wears vivid red,  
 He's very amiable, 'tis said;  
 He likes fresh fruits and seeds to eat  
 And has a song that's very sweet.



In shallow water Mallard Duck  
 At fishing sometimes tries his luck;  
 At other times he thinks it's nice  
 To nibble at the sweet wild rice.





Eagle has piercing yellow eyes,  
 He's very strong and very wise;  
 He's king and master over all  
 The other birds, both great and small.



Great Blue Heron likes to fly,  
 And so he builds his house up high,  
 Way in the tops of tallest trees  
 Where he lives, happy as you please.



Said Father Goose: "I think I'll take  
 A stroll this morning to the lake."  
 Mother Goose said: "Then I'll go, too,  
 And maybe take a swim with you."



Friendly little Chickadee  
 Is just as cunning as can be;  
 Upon your windowsill he'll come  
 And thank you kindly for a crumb.



Baltimore Oriole, pretty thing,  
Builds his nest of bits of string;  
He's sociable and likes to stay  
Where people live and children play.



Black, solemn-looking Mr. Crow  
Steals the good farmer's corn, you know;  
If you ask why he breaks the laws,  
He answers, wisely, "Caws, caws, caws."



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Said Penguin, pensively, one day:  
 “Come, fishie dear, come out and play,”  
 But fishie answered, in a fright:  
 “I’ve heard about your appetite.”