

Lect 1. Robin

no natural history of birds written yet. It cannot be written, but by a gentleman, and no gentleman yet has ever thought of birds except as game flying targets or flavoured dishes.

The only bit of natural history with the name in the English language, that I know of, - is in the few lines of Milton about the creation. The only example of a proper manner of contribution to natural history is in Whittier's letter from Selkirk Selborne.

You know I have always spoken of Bewick as pre-eminently a vulgar or boorish person, though of splendid honour & genius; - his vulgarity shows in ~~the~~ ^{his} ~~deadliest~~ ^{wonderful} as in the poverty of the details he has collected, with the best intentions and the shrewdest sense - for English ornithology. His imagination is not cultivated enough to enable him to observe.

No can much more be said for the observations of modern science. It is ~~boorish~~ and vulgar in a far worse way, by its self arrogance and materialism. In general, the natural history of a bird consists of ^{four} ~~three~~ articles: first, the names of the gentlemen ^{gamekeepers} who shot the last that were seen in England; secondly, two or three stories of doubtful origin, printed in every book on the subject ^{of birds} for the last fifty years. Thirdly, an account of the feathers, of from the comb to the rump, with ~~usual~~ ^{various} descriptions of the colours which are never more to be seen by English eyes; - and lastly, a disquisition on the reasons ~~which~~ why some of the twelve names which former naturalists have given to