

The Home Forum®

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space

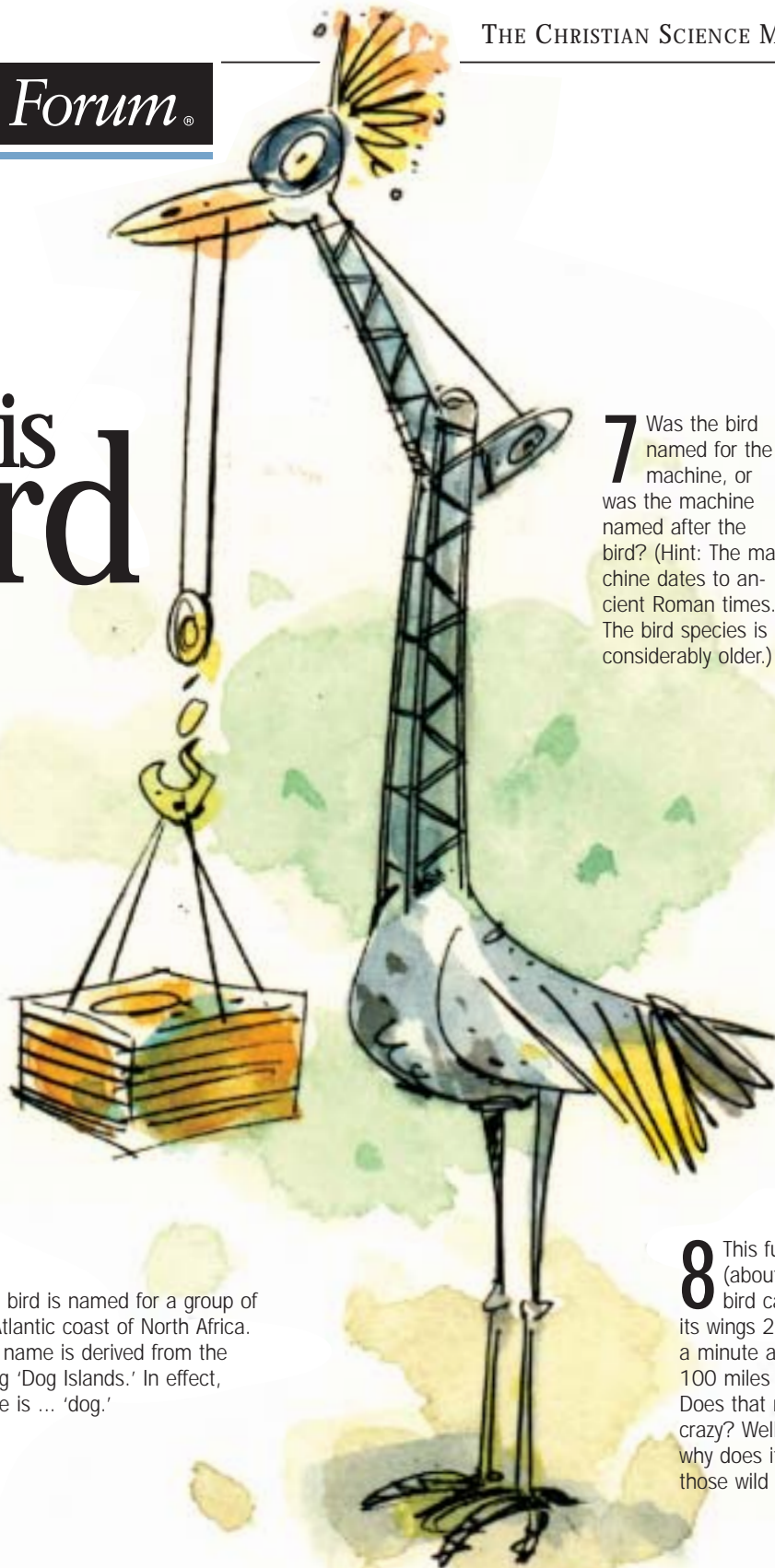
IF YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING (and listening) carefully, spring has been springing for some time now. Snowdrops and skunk cabbages are beginning to appear, and male migratory birds began to stake out their mating territory in February. Have you

heard their songs? We thought now would be a good time for a quiz about birds and bird names. You've never seen birds look or behave the way our artist has made them look and behave here, but we're pretty sure you've heard of the real birds they represent. Other bird questions have words-only clues.

Look at the illustrations and read the clues. Check your answers on the facing page.

BIRD is the WORD

1 It seemed like a romantic idea at the time: Obtain from England and release into America all the birds that 'star' in Shakespeare's plays. This particular bird – a 'little star' – is now seen as a big pest in communities across North America.



7 Was the bird named for the machine, or was the machine named after the bird? (Hint: The machine dates to ancient Roman times. The bird species is considerably older.)



2 This tropical bird's name is the Portuguese form of a Spanish word meaning 'of or relating to a county in Northwestern France that includes parts of Belgium.' Huh? How did this exotic bird come to be named for a place where it does not live? And why is it dancing?

3 This popular pet bird is named for a group of islands off the Atlantic coast of North Africa. But the islands' name is derived from the original Latin meaning 'Dog Islands.' In effect, then, this bird's name is ... 'dog.'

8 This full-size (about 12 lbs.) bird can beat its wings 250 times a minute and fly 100 miles per hour! Does that mean it's crazy? Well then why does it make those wild calls?

4 It's not that they don't know the words, it's just that they beat their wings so fast. But do they really migrate 1,800 miles by hitching rides on the backs of Canada geese?



5 The ancient Greek name for it means 'bird camel,' and you can easily see why: Males can weigh up to 300 lbs. – and go 40 miles per hour on land. Why would an animal like that need to stick its head in the sand? Answer: It doesn't.

6 Birds can play baseball, too – judging from the names of some major league teams. Can you name these two? (Extra credit: Which one of these teams used to play in the other's home city, under a different name?)

9 Back in the late Middle Ages (AD 1200-1500) in England, people's names came to be applied to various birds. The robin, for instance, and the martin. This bird's name comes from an English version of the Roman name Gaius (GAY-uhs). It's also a Toronto baseball team.



10 When Portuguese explorers first came upon these flightless fowl on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius, they thought the birds were stupid. Isolated for centuries, the birds had no fear. They walked right up to the sailors. Bad move.



11 They are birds, and they're in a car. They seem to be gesturing. What are they signaling, do you suppose? (If you ride a bike, you should know.)

Final hint: One good one of these web-footed shorebirds deserves another, or so they say.

SOURCES: The Barnhart Concise Dictionary of Etymology, by Robert Barnhart; The World Book Dictionary; Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins, by Robert Hendrickson; Webster's New International Dictionary; takeourwordforit.com; Canary Island website; historicbaseball.com; Webster's New World College Dictionary, Third Edition; wikipedia.com; birds-n-garden.com; website of Chaffee Zoo in Fresno, Calif.; David Reilly's dodo website; Maine Audubon Society website.

ANSWERS

(1) Starling. In 1890, Shakespearean actor Eugene Schiffer released 80 starlings into New York's Central Park. His deed has been called one of the worst examples of what can happen when you introduce an exotic (nonnative) species into a new ecosystem. (2) Flamingo. Spanish explorers named the bird in 1565, apparently as a joke. People from Flanders (called Flemings, or Flemish - or, in Spanish, 'Flamenco') were known at the time for their ruddy complexions, lively personalities, and love of bright clothing. 'Flamenco' music and dance came to be known as such in the late 1800s, though the art form has ancient Indian, Moorish, Jewish, and Roman roots. Word historians offer various explanations for the name. One theory is that a Gypsy dance came to be associated with Flanders by mistake. (3) Canary. King Juda II of Mauritania, then a Roman colony in North Africa, sent an expedition to the Canary Islands about AD 1,168. The bird was extinct. Its demise was due not only to its lack of fear of humans, but also because settlers introduced pigs and dogs. These animals ran wild and preyed on the ground-dwelling bird. (4) Hummingbird. Ruby-throated hummingbirds fly across the Gulf of Mexico to Central America from the Northeastern United States. They do not hitch rides on bigger birds, though. The tiny birds do their own flying - 600 miles at one stretch, across the Gulf - aided by fat reserves equal to half their body weight. (5) Ostrich. The ostrich of Africa does not stick its head in the sand when it is scared. Ostriches do, however, rest by lying down and stretching out their necks along the ground. (6) St. Louis Cardinals, Baltimore Orioles. The Baltimore Orioles (they were the Browns, then) moved to St. Louis in 1902 and stayed until 1954, when they moved to Baltimore. (7) Crane. Ancient Romans probably invented the crane, though it's uncertain when the lifting device acquired the bird's name. Loon. The northern loon is found in the US Northwest and Northeast. It's most populous along Maine's shores and lakes. (8) Bluejay. 'Jay' is the Anglicized form of 'Gaius.' This is also when 'daw' became 'jakkdaw' and 'pie' became 'magpie.' ('Mag' is short for 'Margaret.') (9) Dodo. In Portuguese, 'dodo' means 'stupid.' The sailors first landed on Mauritius in 1598. By 1681, the bird was extinct. Its demise was due not only to its lack of fear of humans, but also because settlers introduced pigs and dogs. These animals ran wild and preyed on the ground-dwelling bird. (10) Tern. They are signaling a 'right turn' (wing held up) and a 'left turn' (wing pointing straight out). And you've heard about the naughty kid throwing rocks at seabirds? He was being very thorough - leaving no term unstoned.

TODAY'S ARTICLE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Bringing a spiritual perspective to daily life

'Happily ever after'

IS THERE A "happily ever after" for Joe Millionaire or for Trista, the Bachelorette? Is everlasting joy just an illusive fairy tale, or a real possibility?

We would love to think that happy endings mean lasting joy and that the lovers will walk blissfully into the sunset of life.

But happy endings begin with happy "nows." They appear in attitudes and daily choices that are lasting and valuable. We each have opportunities every day to improve our tomorrows by improving our nows. With each intelligent and more spiritually based choice we make, our lives begin to reflect a higher standard that will not be lost. Whatever is selfish or merely sense-based isn't lasting, but by its very nature must change. Many of us learn this the hard way. I did.

When I was 16, my newly divorced parents were reeling with the challenges of trying to figure out how to start their lives over. It was tough for my folks to provide guidance for us three kids when their world was spiraling out of control. I went elsewhere for love and ended up making some poor choices. By age 17 I had a young child to raise and a very poor sense of who I was or where I was going.

I began looking for something or someone to make me feel fulfilled. I looked for love in all the wrong places, as the song goes, until my foolish choices sent me into a pit of despair, drug use, and fear, with no future in sight.

At a particularly low point, my boyfriend's mother, Grace, gave me a book to read. I had no love for books and had never read one from cover to cover, but Grace was a kind and vibrant woman, so I accepted the book.

I didn't think much about it until another desperate moment caused me to remember the promise that Grace made to me when she handed me "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy. She told me that it would change my life. By then, my life was pretty messed up, and I was tired of suffering, so I decided to read that little book, hoping for a change.

The first time I opened it, I turned at random to a passage about an old man who was an actor. (I was an en-

tertainer then.) This man sat aching in his chair until his cue was spoken, and then he was able to jump up and move around with the same vigor as the youngest member of the cast (see pg. 261). I totally understood what this book was talking about. The demand to play his part caused him to lose himself in the joy of his acting. The freedom that brought him was something I had experienced when I was on stage. I found that I could hit notes I was unable to hit in rehearsal.

This book was so right on, and it spoke to me. I continued reading it night and day. It became a close friend and guide. I loved the natural transformation of my thought, and therefore of my experience, that took place as I read and studied the book in conjunction with the Bible. Fulfillment and lasting relationships were the natural result of better thinking. It was wonderful.

Soon I began to discover the love I yearned for and where the "happily ever after" I hoped for is found. They couldn't be lost in the mistakes of my past or the troubles of my parents. Nor did I have to wait for some time in the elusive future to find the fulfillment I longed for.

I realized and continue to discover, many years later, that everything a person hopes for is in the now of his or her God-given nature. It is part of our package as the individual expression of God to be complete in the continuously unfolding "nows" of life.

The opening line of Science and Health reads: "To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, to-day is big with blessings." This is a real "now" statement we can prove in our lives today.

We are loved by our Creator and worthy of all that we hope for. The music of our lives is a masterpiece of originality and beauty. We don't have to wait for someone or something outside to find our "happily ever after"; we can find it now as children of the one God. In that discovery, we are blessed ever after.

I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Jeremiah 29:11

Happy endings begin with happy 'nows.'

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