

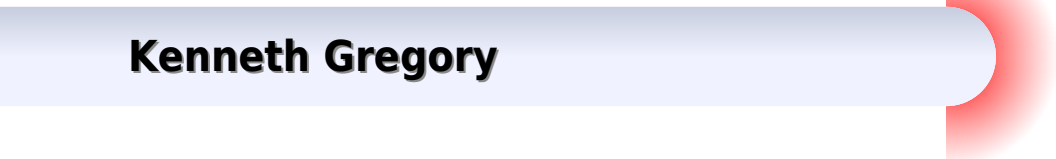
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First Cuckoo



The First Cuckoo

Kenneth Gregory



The First Cuckoo:

The first cuckoo Kenneth Gregory, 1972 **The Complete Works of W. H. Auden: Prose, v. 6, 1969-1973. A certain world ; Essays and reviews, 1969-1973 ; Forewords and afterwords ; Addenda to previous volumes ; Appendices ; Textual notes** Wystan Hugh Auden, 1988 **The Cuckoos** Robert B. Payne, 2005-07-14 The cuckoos are the most variable birds in social behavior and parental care a few cuckoos are among the most social of all birds and rear their young in a common nest most cuckoos are caring parents that rear their own young with some females laying a few eggs in the nests of others while many cuckoo species are brood parasites who leave their eggs in the nests of other birds to rear with their young maturing to kill their foster nestmates In *The Cuckoos* Robert B Payne presents a new evolutionary history of the family based on molecular genetics and uses the family tree to explore the origins and diversity of their behaviour He traces details of the cuckoos biology to their original sources includes descriptions of previously unpublished field observations and reveals new comparisons of songs showing previously overlooked cuckoo species Lavishly illustrated with specially commissioned colour plates and numerous maps halftones and line drawings *The Cuckoos* provides the most comprehensive and up to date account of this family yet available , **Cuckoos, Cowbirds and Other Cheats** Nick Davies, 2010-09-30 This fascinating study describes the natural histories of these brood parasites and examines many of the exciting questions they raise about the evolution of cheating and the arms race between parasites and their prey Brood parasites fill their armoury with adaptations including exquisite egg mimicry rapid laying ejection of host eggs murder of host young chick mimicry and manipulative begging behaviour ploys shown by recent research to have evolved in response to host defence behaviour or through competition among the parasites themselves While many host species appear defenceless accepting parasite eggs quite unlike their own many are more discriminating against odd looking eggs and some have evolved the ability to discriminate against odd looking chicks as well How is this arms race conducted Will defenceless hosts develop defences in time or are there constraints which limit the evolution and perfection of host defences And why are so few species obliged only to lay eggs in host nests Have host defences limited the success of brood parasitism or is it in fact much more common than we suspect but occurring mainly when birds parasitize the nest of their own kind All of these puzzles are examined in descriptions of the natural history of each of the groups of parasites in turn Here is a book with wide appeal both to amateur naturalists fascinated by this most singular and macabre of behaviours and by ornithologists and ecologists interested in the evolution of ecology and behaviour The story takes us from the classic field work by pioneer ornithologists such as Edgar Chance Stuart Baker Herbert Friedmann and others through to the experimental field work and molecular techniques of today s leading scientists We visit brood parasites in Europe Asia Japan Africa Australasia and North and South America to look at some of the world s most interesting birds and some of biology s most interesting questions many of which still beg answers from ornithologists in the future Brilliant illustrations by David Quinn illuminate the species

discussed showing many behaviours never before illustrated and conveying the thrill of watching these astonishing birds in the wild

Cuckoo Nick Davies, 2015-04-07 A gifted biologist's careful and beguiling study of why cuckoos have got away with tricking other birds into hatching and raising their young for thousands of years. The familiar call of the common cuckoo has been a harbinger of spring ever since our ancestors walked out of Africa many thousands of years ago. However, for naturalist and scientist Nick Davies, the call is an invitation to solve an enduring puzzle: how does the cuckoo get away with laying its eggs in the nests of other birds and tricking them into raising young cuckoos rather than their own offspring? Early observers who noticed a little warbler feeding a monstrously large cuckoo chick concluded the cuckoo's lack of parental care was the result of faulty design by the Creator and that the hosts chose to help the poor cuckoo. These quaint views of bad design and benevolence were banished after Charles Darwin proposed that the cuckoo tricks the hosts in an evolutionary battle where hosts evolve better defenses against cuckoos and cuckoos in turn evolve better trickery to outwit the hosts. For the last three decades, Davies has employed observation and field experiments to unravel the details of this evolutionary arms race between cuckoos and their hosts. Like a detective, Davies and his colleagues studied adult cuckoo behavior, cuckoo egg markings, and cuckoo chick begging calls to discover exactly how cuckoos trick their hosts. For birding and evolution aficionados, *The Cuckoo* is a lyrical and scientifically satisfying exploration of one of nature's most astonishing and beautiful adaptations.

Encyclopædia of Superstitions, Folklore, and the Occult Sciences of the World Cora Linn Daniels, C. M. Stevans, 2003-11

Originally published in 1903, this is an excellent source for an historical perspective on superstitions and folklore. Hundreds of entries are arranged alphabetically within broad subject categories. The original subtitle reads: A comprehensive library of human belief and practice in the mysteries of life through more than six thousand years of experience and progress, including the fundamental intuitions and instincts underlying the structure of civilization, theology, mythology, demonology, magic, witchcraft, esoteric philosophy, signs, omens, oracles, sorceries, auguries, divinations, prophecies, methods and means employed in revealing fortune and fate, systems and formulas for the use of psychical forces, hypnotism, clairvoyance, telepathy, spiritualism, character reading and character building with all the known powers and wonders of mind and soul, illustrated with numerous ancient and modern designs and thoroughly indexed.

The Seasons

Nick Groom, 2014-06-01 For millennia, the passing seasons and their rhythms have marked our progress through the year. But what do they mean to us now that we lead increasingly atomized and urban lives and our weather becomes ever more unpredictable or extreme? Will it matter if we no longer hear even notice the first cuckoo call of spring or rejoice in the mellow fruits of harvest festival? How much will we lose if we can no longer find either refuge or reassurance in the greater natural and meteorological scheme of things? Nick Groom's splendidly rich and encyclopedic book is an unabashed celebration of the English seasons and the trove of strange folklore and often stranger facts they have accumulated over the centuries. Each season and its particular history are given their full due, and these chapters are interwoven with others on the

calendar and how the year and months have come to be measured on important dates and festivals such as Easter May Day and of course Christmas on that defining first cuckoo call on national attitudes to weather our seasonal relationship with the land and horticulture and much more The author expresses the hope that his book will not prove an elegy only time will tell

Songs of Irish Wit and Humour Alfred Perceval Graves,1884 *Animals and Animal Symbols in World Culture* Dean Miller,2014-01-01 A comprehensive guide to the history of human interaction with the creatures of the earth air and water This book provides historical perspective on mankind s complicated relationship with all creatures from tiny insects to larger beasts From the alligator to the wryneck key animals from every continent are profiled with articles focusing on how different cultures viewed the creatures with which they shared land and the ones they considered omens of gods and devils In addition to the numerous articles on specific animals there are also entries on the role of animals in Christian art and how shamans took the form and power of animals in key ceremonies The work is highly illustrated and subjects of major interest are provided with individual bibliographies of further reading on the subject at the end of each article

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