

# Bird Notes by Rick Pyeritz

## *Bird Poems of Ogden Nash*



### *The Plight of the Pelican*

A wonderful bird is the pelican.  
His bill will hold more than his belican.  
He takes in his beak enough food for a week,  
But I'm damned if I see how the helican.

### *The Canary*

The song of canaries  
Never varies,  
And when they're moulting  
They're pretty revolting.

### *The Grackle*

The grackle's voice is less than mellow,  
His heart is black, his eye is yellow,  
He bullies more attractive birds  
With hoodlum deeds and vulgar words,  
And should a human interfere,  
Attacks that human in the rear.  
I cannot help but deem the grackle  
an ornithological debacle.

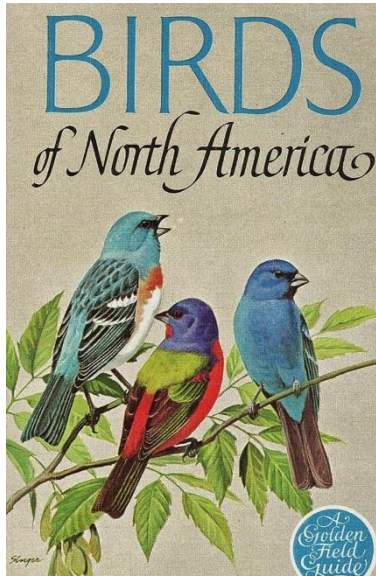
### *The Ostrich*

The ostrich roams the great Sahara  
Its mouth is wide, its neck is narra.  
It has such long and lofty legs.  
I'm glad it sits to lay its eggs.

### *The Turkey*

There is nothing more perky  
Than a masculine turkey.  
When he struts he struts  
With no ifs or buts.  
When his face is apoplectic  
His harem grows hectic,  
And when he gobbles  
Their universe wobbles.





*Up from the Egg:  
Confessions of a Nuthatch Avoider*

Bird watchers top my honors list,  
I aimed to be one, but I missed.  
Since I'm both myopic and astigmatic,  
My aim turned out to be erratic,  
And I, bespectacled and binocular,  
Exposed myself to comment jocular.

We don't need too much birdlore, do we,  
To tell a flamingo from a towhee;  
Yet I cannot, and never will,  
Unless the silly birds stand still.  
And there's no enlightenment so obscure  
As ornithological literature.

Is yon strange creature a common chickadee,  
Or a migrant alouette from Picardy?  
You rush to consult your Nature guide  
And inspect the gallery inside.  
But a bird in the open never looks  
Like its picture in the birdie books ----

Or if it did, it has changed its plumage,  
And plunges you back into ignorant gloomage.  
That is why I sit here growing old by inches,  
Watching the clock instead of finches,  
But I sometimes visualize in my gin  
The Audubon that I audubin.

If you have any favorite humorous poems about our avian friends, I would appreciate hearing about them. You may email me at [eapyeritz@gmail.com](mailto:eapyeritz@gmail.com).