

their passage through the air, Aristotle and Vergil provide the very best authority.⁹

Dionysius continues his account with a description of the birds' education, which begins directly they are hatched and which he likens to that of farmers' boys helping their aged parents at the plough. The birds' end is miserable, when, blinded by old age, they dash themselves upon the rocks, thinking that they are diving into the sea—a statement that perhaps derives from the sight of broken wave-washed corpses along the water's edge.

Dionysius also gives an improbable account (iii 22) of how the Cataractes is taken by means of pictures of fish painted on planks, upon which the birds dash themselves. His description of netting sleeping grebes by night rings more true (iii 25), though we may doubt whether the birds would take a boat's light for a star. Dionysius's wildfowlers are careful to paddle quietly up to the birds, so as not to awaken them by the splash of the oars. Grebes from Richmond were set free in a channel frequented by motor boats. More than once watchers on the shore were alarmed to see a boat heading straight for a group of newly-released birds, but the grebes always took avoiding action in plenty of time. Their eyes were of course close to the water-level and their field of vision therefore limited, and they were perhaps warned by the beat of the screw and noise of the engine.

J. K. ANDERSON

University of California

⁹ Vergil, *Aeneid* ix 588; Aristotle, *De Caelo* ii 7.289A. W. K. C. Guthrie, in the Loeb *Aristotle: on the Heavens* (Harvard, 1953) cites numerous other Latin texts, but adds that he can find no Greek authors who mention this belief, apart from Aristotle. The 'origin of a belief so patently at variance with the facts' is no doubt the fact that leaden bullets (sling or rifle) picked up immediately after impact, are hot because their kinetic energy is converted into heat.

Note on Sea-birds

I am delighted with Mr Anderson's article in this number of the *Journal* (171–2) on the Greek names of sea-birds. *Αντίνοος* is a rare word and it must refer to a bird diving from the surface like our divers, the commonest of which is our Little Grebe (*Podiceps ruficollis*), but of course the term could include all ducks. The name *κολυμβίς* could also be applied to all these birds but it need not be confined to them. The Greeks knew that terns dived from a height and said *κῆξ* or *κανάξ*: Homer compares the bird to the lady, who fell into a hold (*Od.* xv 479).

There is a picture of two birds with plumage like that of Black-throated Divers or Great Northern

Divers on a Middle Minoan mug found at Palaikastro near the sea in East Crete (*Unpublished Objects* 92 fig. 77: Zervos, *Crete* no. 742). One bird is diving from a rock, towards a root on the bottom, the other is standing on a stone opening its beak to give an alarm signal. It might be objected to this picture that divers do not dive from rocks, nor stand upright on stones; otherwise it is a good picture. According to the *Guide to Birds of Britain and Europe*, there appear to be two birds, but I can only find one Latin name: *Colymbus Arcticus*. In spite of its name the bird is known in Greek waters.

I have been dive-bombed by Black-headed gulls here, near their nests on the shores of the Moray Firth. The Icarus Painter drew a picture of this (*ARV*² 696.1 and 1666) on a lekythos in New York (24.97.37). The deepest divers are the Gannets (*Sula bassana*) of which more later.

I like Mr Anderson's identification of *Θραξ* with the Great Crested Grebe, the bird who puts on a Thracian helmet in summer, with his sinister ear-flaps. Such a bird would have to have a reputation for fierceness, and Mr Anderson who has handled them, says that they are inclined to be aggressive. The Latin name for this Grebe, *Podiceps cristatus*, must refer to the family's poor legwork though it is said that the Crested Grebe does occasionally stand upright. The modern Greek name for the family is *πυρόπους*, Bottom-foot or *πυρόσκελις*. Compare the name *οὔρα* (Athen. 395e). Of course the name would apply more obviously to the Pin-tail duck but the bird is said to be near to a duck, but presumably not an actual duck. No duck has a long thin beak, many are the colour of dirty potter's earth, i.e. Attic earth. The bird that is weak on the leg, has red on it and a sharp, thin beak, is our Great Crested Grebe.

I should like to make one more identification of our Grebe. Coins of Stymphalos show a long bird's neck rising above the leaves of a Water Plantain (*Platanus Magnus*) with a Fritillary on either side. I have found a Fritillary at Ithome, not too far away. The bird wears ear-flaps, and for me a marsh bird with ear-flaps must be meant for the Great Crested Grebe. We can go further: when it is on Stymphalos lake, it must be the bird driven away by Herakles, a story which suits its fierce appearance. The Stymphalians should have known what their own bad birds looked like. Athenian artists make Herakles attack swans or geese, the gentle marsh-birds they could see at home. The Stymphalian birds offered by Herakles to Athena on the metope from the temple of Zeus at Olympia cannot be identified.

I was unlucky when I looked for this Grebe near the ancient temples: that part was dried up, the East side would have been better for bird-watching. Pausanias (viii 22) probably identified Herakles' birds with Pelicans, no doubt because of their axe name and those formidable looking bills; actually the bills are soft and the birds timid. He also speaks of Stymphalian birds as acroteria on the temple of Artemis at Stymphalos, made of wood or gypsum.

Neither material would survive long on a roof, and grebes would look pretty silly there. Storks would be better, but surely their habits were too well known for them to figure as man-killers.

Miss Carrington-Smith points out to me that two old maps give a tributary of the Asopos as *'Ορνια*, but differ in locating the name. If it is the stream that crosses the high road to Stymphalos from Sikyon, coming from the east, it is rather high for Harpe; if it is the branch from the lake, we have the Stymphalian Birds again.

According to Apollonios Rhodios the displaced Stymphalian birds made a murderous attack on the Argo off the Island of Dia, shooting their feathers like arrows. Could this be a reflection of a personal adventure of the poet? A ship on which I was sailing was dive-bombed by Gannets just East of the harbour of Tinos: no doubt they were defending their nests on the cliffs.

May I be allowed to describe an adventure of a professor from an English university visiting Australia? A Magpie incurred his displeasure by feinting at his bald head, so that he pursued it, shouting loudly. The bird bided its time, then dived again, but this dive scored a direct hit.

Before leaving the war-like 'Thrakos', mention should be made of the other warrior who grows ear-flaps, the Ruff, *Philomachus Pugnax* (what a shocking name): *Μεμνονίς ὄρνις*. The Ruff treads himself out a list on which to fight other Ruffs. The legend was that this was a commemorative battle round the tomb of Memnon at the Hellespont. Pausanias (x 31) says that the birds were painted on Memnon's cloak in the Lesche of the Corinthians at Delphi (dating from the fifth century B.C.).

A series of bird battles takes place on fragments from an archaic West Greek kantharos found in Aetos, Ithaca. There are no ear-flaps to be seen, but it was a glorious battle, both families engaged, and blood and feathers flying in all directions. Professor Timbergen tells us that Kittiwakes indulge in family battles, when the birds start moving about *en famille* among their crowded nests, but these birds are not gulls; their legs and beaks are too long and their bodies too heavy. It might be a hearsay picture of the fighting birds.

SYLVIA BENTON

A Tourist in Athens, 1801

In the *JHS* xxxvi (1916) 162-372, Mr A. H. Smith gives a detailed account of the removal of the Elgin Marbles from the Parthenon in 1801-5 and of their subsequent history; in his *Lord Elgin and the Marbles* (1967), Mr W. St Clair brings this account up-to-date. Both authors describe the happenings in Athens of the last week of July 1801, when Lord Elgin's secretary, the Revd Philip Hunt, was in Athens,

when excavations began and when the first sculptures were removed from the fabric of the temple. There was also in Athens at that time a party of three young Englishmen, Messrs William Gell, Edward Dodwell and Atkins, and there is a contemporary account by Gell now available, which was not known either to Smith or to St Clair; it provides some further information as to the conditions under which Hunt had to work, and of the immediate emotions and reactions of the four Englishmen as they actually watched the first 'Elgin marbles' being removed, as distinct from their later sentiments—and from those of Lord Byron.

It will be remembered that, as he passed through Naples in October 1799, on his way to Constantinople, Lord Elgin had engaged a party of artists and stuccoists, under an Italian artist named Lusieri, but this party did not reach Athens till August 1800. When he visited Athens in the spring of 1801, Hunt found that they were making little progress in their principal task of drawing and modelling the sculptures of the buildings on the Acropolis, because of the obstructionism of the Turkish authorities, and he accordingly went back to Constantinople to obtain some imperial firman to allow the artists to continue with their work (St Clair, *op. cit.* 87).

In October 1800 Gell and Dodwell, both 23 years old and not long down from Cambridge, and Atkins left England for a prolonged tour of Greece; they wintered in Germany, sailed from Venice on 29 April 1801, and rode into Athens at dusk on 10 July. They immediately went to the house of the British vice-consul, Spiridion Logotheti, and were (Gell says) received 'with the greatest politeness and hospitality'. Logotheti arranged lodgings for them in the house of Theodora Mina, the mother of the former Consul, Procopius—in whose house nearly all the British visitors to Athens of the period stayed. Next day the three men walked out to see the sights and to sketch. By the end of the first day, they had discovered the dishonesty of the vice-consul; it is clear from Gell's diary that, unlike Lusieri, the Englishmen were not prepared to be thwarted or cheated.

'The English Agent appeared very anxious to compel us to pay 60 piastres to the Disdar [the military commander] for permission to enter the castle. He seemed very unwilling to present our letter of recommendation to the Waivode [the civilian governor], & observed that when we called on him to present it he was very backward. We found the Disdar, to whom we went without informing the Agent, exceedingly civil and were promised entrance whenever we chose. On returning we mentioned to him that he must have been misinformed for we found the Turks remarkably polite. He put on his cloak and hurried out immediately. We found ourselves refused admittance the next day, and by this means discovered the treachery of our friend.

'It was remarkable that the son of the Disdar