

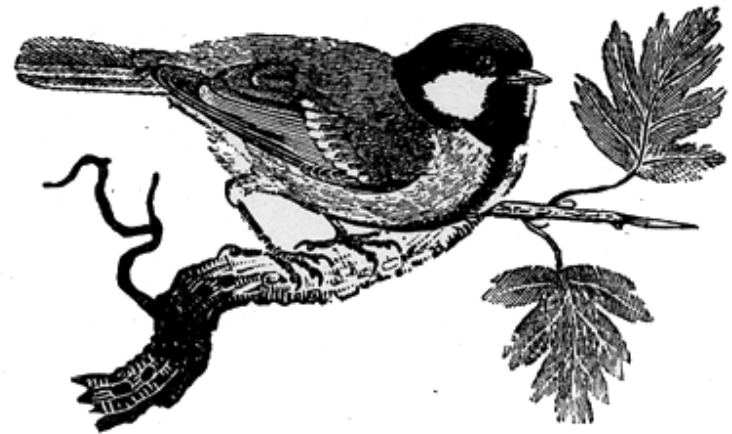
A CHAPBOOK BY **BLACK PIG PRESS**



library.mole@gmail.com



Bad Zoology



THE TITMOUSE
(Oxeye)

by Keith Welch

Stamp

\$Free ●

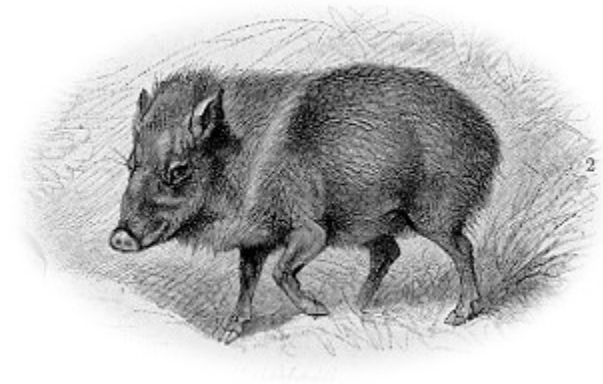
For animal lovers everywhere

Black Pig

is the black pig a metaphor?
was he chasing my car or
something more ephemeral?
maybe there was no black pig
running alongside the road
was I planet or satellite?

if I am car and pig together
there is no
"wee-wee-wee all the way home"
there is no home and no road
only a fantastic sty flying
through no-space in no-time

the pig and I are no wee-wee-wee
the moment we existed together
was a man's swinish ecstasy
ah, if only I could have shared his joy
I chase cars too - and my cars
can't be caught either



Cuckoo

I wonder if the cuckoo child appreciates the mother
who raised it from an egg that was abandoned by another?

the cuckoo is a bird that feels no need to hang around
when it could be fancy free and whoring around town

it drops its changeling child into some other parent's nest
and the silly victim-bird will never recognize the guest

despite the fact the damned thing is as big as Bubba Smith
and after being hatched demands a ton of food forthwith

the cuckoo-child will eat and eat until it's had its fill
and then go flying off to satisfy its greedy will

repeat its parent's sins unto the untold generation
and yet the cuckoo-bird is free from any condemnation
it only does what evolution says is its vocation.

that said, I think the cuckoo birds are lazy motherfuckers
and stupid birds that hatch their eggs deserve to be their suckers



Contents

Capybara	4
Crows	5
Tasman Peninsula Dusky Antechinus	6
Cobra	7
Squirrel	8
Vampire Bat	9
Mantis	10
Tapir	11
Bees in Lavender	12
Hare	13
Alligator or Crocodile	14
December Cats	15
Eagle	16
Titmouse	17
Tick	18
Groundhog	19
Tasmanian Devil	20
Quokka	21
Cuckoo	22
Black Pig	23

Capybara

the capybara, with meditative gaze
 considers the world philosophically
 he does not fall for each new craze
 his life is lived quite logically
 when he knows the time is right he
 mates, or eats, or swims, or sleeps
 this rodent's spirit's always light
 unless the midnight Jaguar creeps
 although the Capy's never vicious
 his peaceful life has one main flaw
 others find him so delicious
 they'd love to eat him cooked or raw
 so do as the capybara does
 and live life on an even keel
 enjoy your peace and quiet now
 because someday you'll be a meal



Quokka

the quokka, friendly macropod
 of the genus Setonix
 will without the slightest prod
 approach you for a french-fry fix
 gladly will he favor you
 with a happy toothsome smile
 posing for your camera, too
 when you visit Rottenest Isle
 however if you come to visit
 empty-handed like a chump
 you will find his scorn exquisite
 you will only see his rump



Tasmanian Devil

there is a marsupial called the devil
 in anger he is known to revel
 Tasmania is where he growls
 and he's always on the prowl
 for new and tasty things to eat
 he's not choosy about his meat
 he'll eat road kill, water rats
 rotten fish, small dogs and cats,
 the legs of sheep, old shoes, and fruit,
 his own kind- without dispute
 he's quite the little psychopath
 you wouldn't want to face his wrath
 on his island he's the king
 eating almost anything
 so while you visit, be aware
 keep your boots on and take care
 it wouldn't do to fall asleep
 he might mistake you for a sheep



Crows

the crows are in the trees
 they talk and talk
 their breath is all eyeballs
 and intestines

their dreams are of
 timely corpses
 well plated on the
 hot asphalt

startled, they wheel and dive,
 wheel and dive
 a black cloud of death's
 best friend

do they remember the rich
 battlegrounds
 where they ate the
 flesh of men?

it must be a tale told
 in the treetops
 a tale of a golden age.



Tasman Peninsula Dusky Antechinus

the Tasman Peninsula Dusky Antechinus
is the horniest marsupial around
he definitely does not suffer from shyness
his mating theory's not too sound

he'll happily grind for fourteen hours
on his hormone-driven mate
imagine a shrew with super-powers
and one you wouldn't wish to date

all this banging has its drawbacks
and so the Antechinus perishes
when it makes the shrew with two backs
from too much of what it really cherishes

the Tasman Peninsula Dusky Antechinus
is he someone to admire?
idolize as His Randy Highness?
as role model he is rather dire

I think that we may look upon
the Tasman Peninsula Dusky Antechinus
as a paragon of sexual brawn
his morals may be in the minus
but he can screw from dusk to dawn



Groundhog

behold the gentle whistle-pig who lives in your back yard
he's content to be a rodent whose life is not that hard
some may call him groundhog, and others a woodchuck
just be aware he's not a hog or any other schmuck
most literary of the rodents, he'll always have a pen
but please don't ask to borrow it he'll always need it when
the inspiration strikes him and when he's on a roll
you can't expect a literary rodent to withhold

such deep thoughts that a cousin of the marmot may be thinking
on science and philosophy or other topics linking
the history of burrowing and Egyptian hieroglyphs
such intelligence is just one of the groundhog's many gifts

despite his friendly nature and his literary style
the groundhog has some enemies that make his work a trial
snakes of course have no respect for artists it is true
and foxes bears and eagles are some critics you would rue

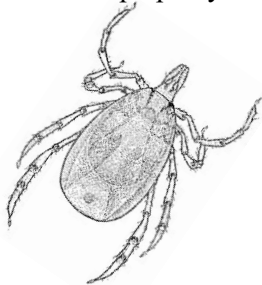
a fox will pounce upon the slightest fault of groundhog grammar
and a bear calls work derivative in a most offensive manner
and you know cougars in the wild can be especially so mean
they'll rip an essay into shreds in great displays of spleen

so it's no wonder that the woodchuck has no will to publish
in any case the market for 'chuck literature's so sluggish
no publisher of any note will take a chance on works
written in back yards by any whistle-pig who lurks



Tick

the tick is not a boastful fellow
 his life you know is rather mellow
 he sits upon his blade of grass
 waiting for a friend to pass
 and then a ride he's known to hitch
 upon a dog, perhaps a bitch
 he only wants a drop or two
 from your pet or maybe you
 and when he's done he falls away
 when he's full up for the day
 he makes a rather silly sight
 full to the brim his skin is tight
 looking rather like a grape
 in this new ungainly shape
 he waves his little arms and legs
 until he's ready to lay eggs
 the Lyme disease he may deliver
 or Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
 is really just a side effect
 and if you get it just reflect
 that you're really not so tough at all
 and even though the tick is small
 he can take you down a peg
 with a little nip upon your leg



Cobra

the Cobra, we admit, is not the friendliest of snakes
 and his attitude is such to give the bravest man the shakes
 his real name is Naja, from the Sanskrit of the ancients
 but he couldn't give a damn because he has so little patience
 that if you try to school him he will bite you on the lip
 for he despises pedants and he will not stand for quips
 on second thought I'll add that Naja has no sense of fun
 he never gets the joke and if you make one you should run
 for fools he has a special treat he'll spit you in the eye
 and whoop with laughter as you fall and thrash around and die
 he lives all over Asia and he travels as he pleases
 and he gets a mighty kick from killing people with his sneezes
 they say the mighty mongoose is the only thing he fears
 but unless you have a mongoose then your luck is in arrears
 so let this be a lesson for the traveler out East
 never leave the house without a mongoose that you've leased



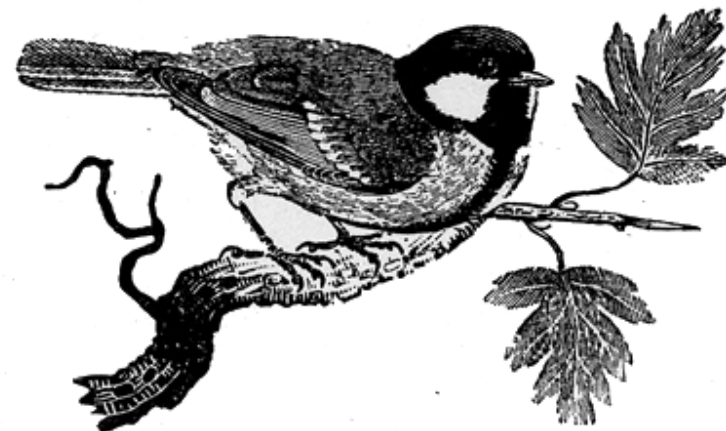
Squirrel

the ordinary squirrel must be cautious with his nuts
 'cause other squirrels are inclined to grab'em
 the clever squirrel will hide them, or be known as a klutz
 who leaves his treasures out where others nab'em
 all through the Spring and Summer squirrels gather and conceal
 they hide, they horde, they collect, and secrete
 they stuff their nuts in knot-holes, so that no one else can steal
 the food that in the winter they will eat
 So if you stumble some day on a squirrel's precious nuts
 please refrain from taking them away
 I can say with confidence no ifs or ands or buts
 the squirrel your politeness will repay,



Titmouse

the titmouse is not embarrassed by his name
 and lives a simple bird's life, without shame
 he'll occupy your tree the year around
 and sometimes to your window will come down
 to check that you are acting as you ought
 and comment on that dress that you have bought
 because he's tufted, fashion is his thing
 and often his opinion has a sting
 when critiquing other species clothing choices
 he has the most reliable of voices



THE TITMOUSE
 (Oxeye)

Eagle

the symbol of our mighty nation
majestic ruler of the skies
the eagle occupies a station
far beyond his normal size

invested with our country's pride
you would think this bird could try
to act America's moral guide
Above the white house it would fly

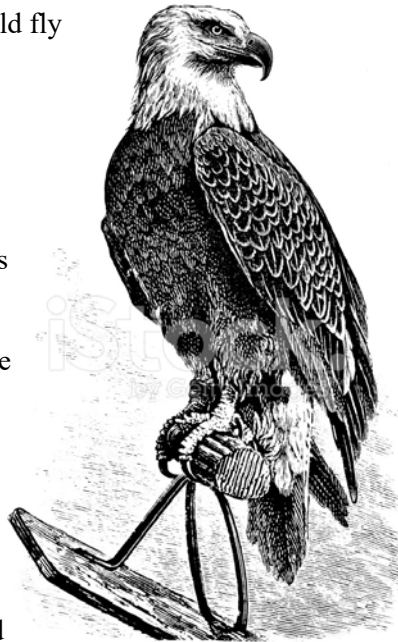
but no, the eagle's very lazy
and doesn't care for politics
indolent and roadkill-crazy
the very worst of hypocrites

and despite the nation's wishes
slothfully he sits in trees
scanning rivers for the fishes
that he knows that he can seize

without paying, not a dime
very cheap, this mighty eagle
economically a crime
and quite possibly illegal

so let's be honest here and say
that eagle is a shiftless bastard
if there's work he finds a way
to grab some fish and go get plastered

right now he's somewhere with your sister
getting her to buy his food
demanding barmen call him mister
and acting mean and very rude.



Vampire Bat

the vampire bat is tired of your fears
your human blood's not really on the menu
she prefers the necks of cows to human ears
and Mexico and south is more her venue

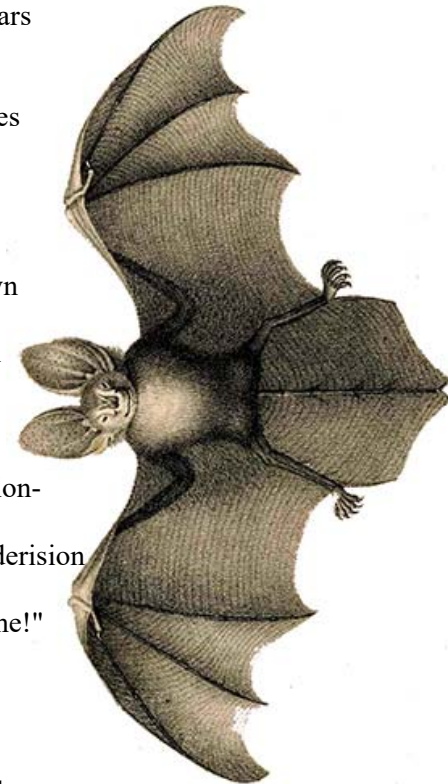
why, she wants to know, are all the movies
that include her kind so very gory?
she considers bat-life rather groovy
and never leaves a drop upon her quarry

she's seen the midnight movies in the town
and Dracula's a date-night regular
the movie's plot is sure to bring her down
depicted as a sloppy predator

although she'll never see a matinee-
the sun has ways of messing with her vision-
as for Lugosi she has this to say:
"He's not a bat!" she squeaks with some derision

"That Hungarian's a blot on our good name!"
"There's no diversity in Hollywood!"
the vampire bat is not looking for fame
she just wants her family to look good.

so If you ever find a vampire bat attached
somewhere about your person, just relax
your fears about her conduct are mismatched
she's still there because her movie deal was axed



Mantis

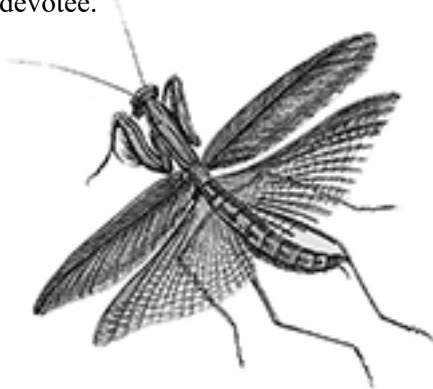
as I was stepping out this morning
on my storm door something green
startled me, and without warning
I saw a mantis on the screen

the mantis, in its silence
is beautiful and quite serene
its talents are for violence
and remaining to its prey unseen

although its actions might appear
evil, and of cruel intent
the mantis hunting is sincere
and no villainy is meant

to eat, to breed, and then to die
the lot of creatures great and small
To man, the mantis, and the fly
Biology rules one and all

mantis, you are welcome there
take your time, no need to flee
and interrupt your morning prayer
say I, who am your devotee.



December Cats

December is the darkest month
when cats no longer need pretend
that they belong to you at all
they have a better, closer friend
around the house they'll slyly creep
they'll find the things you need the most
and hide them while you're fast asleep
have you seen my keys, you'll say
the cat will yawn all innocent
I only had them yesterday
he knows where your belongings went
he wouldn't tell you if he could.



Alligator or Crocodile

some day it might occur that you
while walking down a darkened street
should come across a lizard who
shows interest in what's on your feet

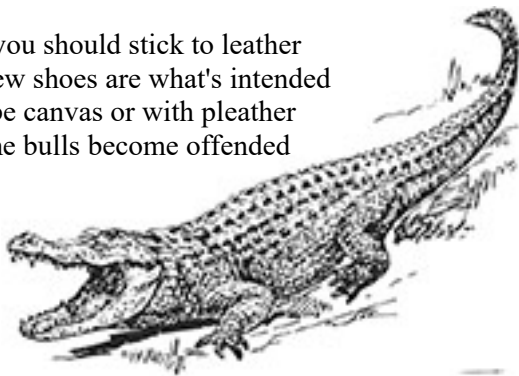
are your loafers crocodile,
or are they alligator hide?
when asked, display a friendly smile
while your footwear is so eyed

no saurian appreciates
to see you walking in the skin
covered in the scaly plates
once occupied by friend or kin

and don't ever be deluded
that croc or gator will be fooled
they'll know at once how you are booted;
you'll end up with your guts unspooled

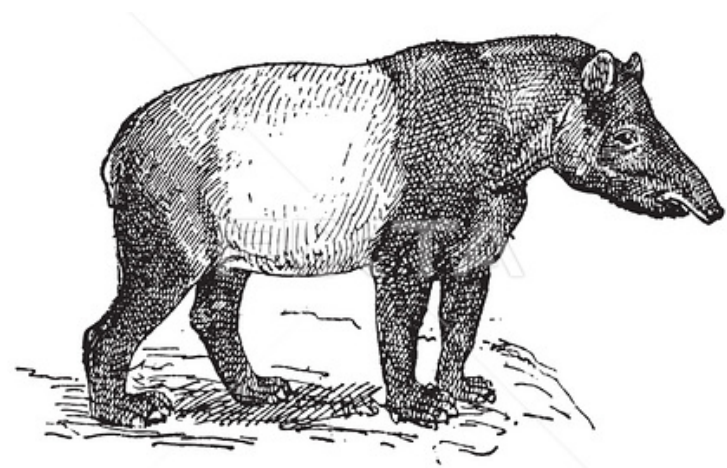
it would probably be best
desiring all your limbs intact
not to answer when you're pressed
where you buy your shoes, in fact

maybe you should stick to leather
when new shoes are what's intended
or maybe canvas or with pleather
lest some bulls become offended



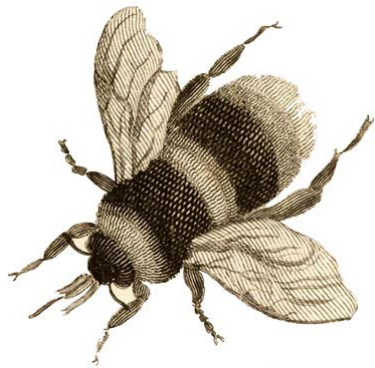
Tapir

the tapir is a cousin of the horned rhinoceros
he roams the forest floor while looking quite preposterous
elephantine is how you might describe his wiggly snout
but if you said he looked a pig I'm sure he'd be put out
he's not a pig of any sort he's of the zebra's kin
if he's called a swine he'll surely put his two cents in
he's a shy and odd-toed ungulate who's always taking pains
while roaming Malay forests and the Amazonian plains
to disappear whenever danger's coming down the pike
jaguars, crocs, and tigers are some things he doesn't like
the extended family of the tapir's known for solidarity
but has no name for tolerating rude familiarity
so don't confuse his silence and his shyness with timidity
anger him and rhinos will appear with great rapidity



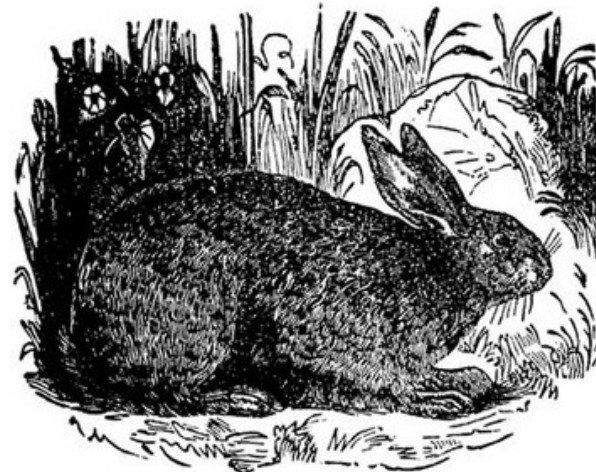
Bees in Lavender

bees in the lavender
big as your pinky toe
lavender so beautiful
a color took its name
and a scent so sweet
I might wish I were a bee
big as my pinky toe



Hare

fat brown rabbit in my back yard
do you think your life is hard?
today's grass is not so green
as other grass that you have seen
the thousand children you have sired
for which you once were quite admired
never call, and what is more
your jumping legs are often sore
the fur upon your velvet ears
is greyer than in early years
but today's sun is hot and bright
there are no younger bucks to fight
I don't resent you being there
enjoy your breakfast, grandfather hare



THE RABBIT.