

Beeton's Management of Home Pets

Ryan Harper

Text by Samuel Orchart Beeton

Soprano, Piano, Melodica, Electric Guitar, and Electronics

2009

Beeton's Management of Home Pets (1862)
Samuel Orchard Beeton

How To Feed The Greenfinch

Like the siskin, the greenfinch is a very hearty feeder, indeed it is this simple failing (*is it a failing, boys?*) that makes him an objectionable companion in the aviary. If any bird presumes to interrupt him while he is feeding, he will dart at, and take a beak full of feathers from the aggressor's poll in an instant. This is the greenfinch's mode of attack, and I have seen birds who have been a few months his companions, with their heads plucked as bald as pebbles.

Antiquity of the Cat as a Home Pet

Our forefathers, in the wisdom which distinguished the "good old times," were firm believers in the medicinal properties of the cat; and any part of the animal, from the tip of its nose to the extremity of its caudal appendage, was considered efficacious in the cure of diseases. If, for instance, a person has a whitlow on the finger, he will find a sure remedy by acting as follows: "Of course it is understood that the whitlow is caused by a worm; then all you have to do is to put your forefinger into the ear of a cat for a quarter of an hour every day, and in a few days, by this means, the worm which causes the whitlow will not be able to wriggle, and, of course, if the worm cannot wriggle, it must die, and the finger will then soon get well!"

The Greyhound

Headed lyke a snake,
Neckyed lyke a drake,
Footed lyke a catte,
Tayled lyke a ratte,
Syded lyke a teme,
And chyned lyke a bream.
The first yere he must learn to fide,
The second yere to fild him lide,
The thyrde yere he is felon lyke,
fourth yere there is none syk,
The fifth yere he is goode ynough,
The sixth yere he shall hold the plough,
The seventh yere he will avayle
Grete bitches for to assayle;
But when he is come to the ninth yere,
Have him than to the tannere;
For the best hound that ever bytch had,
At the ninth year is full bad.

The Water-Boatman

The beetle known as the “water-boatman,” although addicted to eating any of the small fry of his own or any one else’s tribe, is a very interesting fellow. It may be known by the peculiar construction of its hind legs, the lower joints of which are fringed and compressed, and somewhat resemble oars, by which the insect is enabled to propel himself through the water with great rapidity. In shape, the body is thick and triangular, and the outer half of the superior wings fold over each other. Its habits are very singular. All day long it lies on the surface of a ditch, belly uppermost, and its limbs fully stretched out as though he were the most luxurious and lazy fellow in beetledom; but this is merely a *ruse*; idle as he seems, he is broad awake to all that is going on around him; and should any likely prey approach within reach of the boatman’s long limbs, it is clutched without mercy, and off shoots the insect to devour it at its leisure. This is its daylight behavior; but as evening approaches, it assumes quite a new aspect: it no longer reclines on its back, but, assuming a natural position, unfolds a pair of handsome wings, and sails into the air to prey on such tiny insects as may happen to be abroad. This last feature of the boatman’s character should be borne in mind by those who think of giving him a place in their aquarium.

A Fern Album

Many methods will suggest themselves by which ferns may be made a source of pleasure, amusement, and instruction... The fronds may be pressed and dried, and then fastened to sheets of cartridge paper bound together to form a Fern Album... How many memories of the vanished past would such a collection serve to conjure up! What pleasant walks and happy hours spent with love and valued friends would it reveal to our remembrance!... the book, that had spoken to the heart of things that were, would become a “Home Pet” that we should prize more highly, and treasure more closely, after each communion with the withered fronds that lie between its pages.

How to Feed the Greenfinch

Music by Ryan Harper
Selected Text from Beeton's Management of Home Pets

♩ = 200
playful and lightly

Soprano *mf* Like the sis -

Piano *mf*

8 kin, the green - finch is a ve - ry hear-ty fee-der,

15 *p* in-deed it is this sim-ple fail - ing,

p

♩ = 152

rit.

23 *mf*

(is it a fail-ing boys?) — that makes him anob-jec-tion-a - ble — com pan - ion —

mf *p*

♩ = 152

28 *mp* ♩ = 200 , still playful, but growing in menace

— in the a - via - ry.

♩ = 200

mp *f*

32 *mf*

If a-ny bird pre-sumes to in - ter -

mf

36

rupt him while he is fee- ding,

$\text{♩} = 208$

40 *furioso* *mf*

he will dart at, he will dart at, he will dart at, he will dart at,

$\text{♩} = 208$

mp *mf*

45 *f*

he will dart at, he will dart at, he will dart at, he will,

f

♩ = 138

51

he will dart at, he will dart at, _____ and take a beak full of

ff

♩ = 138

ff

57

mf \longrightarrow *p* ♩ = 92 *post apocalyptic with a resigned half-smile*

fea-thers from his a - gres-sor's poll in an in-stant.

♩ = 92 heavy pedal throughout

p

63

mp

This is the green-finch's mode of at-tack,

68

and I've seen birds _____ who have been a few months his com - pan- ions,

72

with their heads _____ plucked as bald as

77

peb- bles, as peb- bles,- as peb- bles,-

82

as peb bles,- as peb- bles,-

Antiquity of the Cat as a Home Pet

Music by Ryan Harper
Selected Text from Beeton's Management of Home Pets

$\text{♩} = 116$
caustic
f

Soprano
Our fore - fa - thers, in the wis-dom which dis - tin-guished the "good old

Melodica
f

5 *mp* *sfz*
— times," were firm be - lie-vers in the me - di-ci-nal pro-per-ties of the cat;

11 *f* *deliberately enunciated*
and a-ny part of the an-i - mal, from the tip of its nose to the ex - tre - mi-ty of its

16 *f*
cau-dal ap-pen-dage, was con - si- dered ef - fi - ca-cious in the cure of di - sea-ses.

22 $\text{♩} = 100$ *mp*
If, for in- stance, a per-son has a whit- low on the fin- ger, —

mp

Without strict meter,

♩ = ca. 92

pure

start the shruti box

// (pitched to C)

27

he will find a sure re-me-dy by act-ing as fol - lows:

p *mf*

32

In the style of a 12th century trobairitz, freely

mf

Of course it is un-der-stood that the whit-low is

drone in C Ionian incorporating bits of the soprano melody

38

caused by a worm; then all you have to do is to put your fore-fin-ger in - to the ear of a cat; the worm which cau

begin to introduce accidentals

44

ses the whit-low will not be a - ble to wrig- gle, and if the worm can - not wrig- gle it must die, and the fin-ger

grow in discord and volume

50

will then soon get well! mmm

f

The Greyhound

Music by Ryan Harper
Selected Text from Beeton's Management of Home Pets

♩ = 112
rustically

Soprano

[start capture loop] + [turn loop on]
(alternate between fretted A string and open D string whenever possible)

*Fender Stratocaster and Loop Pedal

mp
*The guitar should be put through a clean amplifier with heavy reverb.
Only the neck pickup should be on at first.

5 **mp**

d - d - d - d - d - d - d, d - d - d - d - d - d - d - d - d - d - d - d, d - d - d - d - d - d - d - d - d - d - d - d,

[start another capture loop] [end capture loop]

10

d - d - d - d - d - d, d - d - d - d - d - d - d, d - d - d - d - d - d, do - d,

[start capture loop]

15

do - d, do - d, do,

[turn loop off] [switch to only bridge pickups]

20 **mf**

Head - ed _____ lyke a _____ snake, Neck - ed _____ lyke a _____

[turn loop on]

mf

27

— drake, Foo-ted, foo-ted, foo-ted lyke a catte, Tail-ed

34

— lyke a ratte, d-d-d-d-d, d - d-d-d-d-d-d - d, d-d-d-d-d, d-

40

d-d-d, d-d-d-d - d-d-d-d-d, d-d-d - d-d-d, d - d-d-d-d-d, d-d,

45

Sid-ed lyke a teme, And chyn-ed

50

— lyke a bream.

55 *celebratory*
f

The first yere he must learn _____ to fide,

[start capture loop]

f *All tremelos should be picked at the neck *mf*

60

The sec-ond yere _____ to _____ fild him _____ lide, The third yere he is _____ fe

[end capture loop]

f

66

- lon _____ lyke The fourth yere there is _____ none _____ syke,

73 *painful memories start to intrude*
mp

The fifth yere he is _____

① *mp*

① scrape pick over the strings above the neck

78

goode y-nough, The sixth yere he shall hold

82

— the plow, The sev-enth yere he will

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, all beamed together. This is followed by a whole rest. The staff then changes to a 3/4 time signature, where it continues with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, all beamed together. The staff then changes to a 5/4 time signature, where it continues with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, all beamed together. The bottom staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It begins with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, all beamed together. This is followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, all beamed together. The staff then changes to a 3/4 time signature, where it continues with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, all beamed together. The staff then changes to a 5/4 time signature, where it continues with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, all beamed together. The lyrics '— the plow,' are under the first staff, and 'The sev-enth yere he will' are under the second staff. The dynamic marking 'mf' is placed above the first staff and below the second staff.

86

Grete bit-ches for to as - sayle;

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. It contains a melody with a fermata over the final note. The bottom staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature, providing a rhythmic accompaniment. The lyrics 'a- vaye,' and 'Grete bit-ches for to as - sayle;' are written below the top staff.

90 $\text{♩} = 120$
bitterly **ff**

sprechstimme

But when he is come to the ninth yere, Have him than to the tan- nere;

[turn loop off]

ff

mf

96 *mf*

For the best hound that e-ver bytch had, at the ninth yere___ is full bad.___

103

declamatory

mp

Have him than to the tan nere

d - d - d - d - d - d - d, d - d - d - d - d - d - d -

[start capture loop]
+ [turn loop on]

1 hold bend-----|

randomly tremelo high notes,
incorporating a lot of bends

p ————— *f* —————

109

d - d - d - d - d - d - d, d - d - d - d - d - d - d - d - d - d - d - d, d - d - d - d - d, d - d - d - d - d - d - d,

114

sprechstimme

repeat "have him than to the tannere" fitfully, uncontrollably

d - d - d - d - d - d, d,

[turn on reverse]
+ [mess with loop variables] (30")

119

gradually diminuendo with the guitar

[slowly turn down mix to nothing] (10")

[turn loop off]

The Water-Boatman

Music by Ryan Harper
Selected Text from Beeton's Management of Home Pets

Soprano

***Electric Organ**

The beetle known as the “water-boatman,” although addicted to eating any of the small fry of his own or any one else’s tribe, is a very... interesting fellow.

*** The Electric Organ should be played on a MIDI Keyboard run through Reason. (The patch originally used, Thorgan, can be found on the Thor Polyphonic Synthesizer.)**

mime each characteristic of the water-boatman's legs with your hands in slow, deliberate movements

In shape, the body is thick and triangular, and the outer half of the superior wings fold over each other.

mime the shape of the body and the wings folding over each other with your hands

33 *hiss the 's' (still spoken) sung as an outgrowth of the spoken word 1'05"

Its habits are very singular, sin - gu - lar, sin - gu - lar.

41 spoken 1'23"

mime the phrase "belly uppermost" and "limbs fully stretched out" with your hands

All day long it lies on the surface of a ditch, belly uppermost, and its limbs fully stretched out as though he were the most luxurious and lazy fellow in beetledom... but this is merely a *ruse*...

53 mime the water-boatman's clutch with your hands 1'47"

and then quickly fling the water-boatman away

Idle as he seems, he is broad awake to all that is going on around him; and should any likely prey approach within reach of the boatman's long limbs, it is clutched without mercy, and off shoots the insect to devour it at its leisure.

66 stand absolutely still, but look upward as if you were watching the water-boatman 2'01"

This is its daylight behavior; but as evening approaches, it assumes quite a new aspect: it no longer reclines on its back, but, assuming a natural position, unfolds a pair of handsome wings, and sails into the air to prey on such tiny insects as may happen to be abroad.

77

Look straight at the audience
(A solemn warning as the music fades away)

...as may happen
to be abroad. (cont.)

This last feature of the boatman's character should be borne
in mind by those who think of giving him a place in their
aquarium.

[end Reason
playback]

ppp

A Fern Album

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Soprano

$\text{♩} = 144$
slow blues

p

Ma-ny me- thods____ will sug

Piano

$\text{♩} = 144$
p

7

mf *p*

gest them-selves by which ferns may be made____ a source of plea sure,_____

14

sfz

a - muse-ment and in - struc- tion._____

20 $\text{♩} = 100$ *mf*

The fronds may be pressed and dried and then fast-ened to sheets of car-tridge

$\text{♩} = 100$

pp *mf*

*Damp strings with fingers

25 *f*

pa- per_ bound to-ge-ther to form a Fern Al- bum.

f *mf*

30 *mf*

How ma-ny mem-o ries_ of the va-nished

34

past would such a co - llec tion_ serve to con - jure up!_

38

What plea-sant walks and hap-py hours spent with love would it re - veal to our re - mem-brance!

f *mp*

43

♩ = 144

The book, that had spo ken to the heart of things that

mp

p

50

were, would be - come — a "Home Pet" that we should prize more

mp

57

high-ly, and trea-sure more close-ly, af-ter each com - mun- ion with its

64 $\text{♩} = 120$

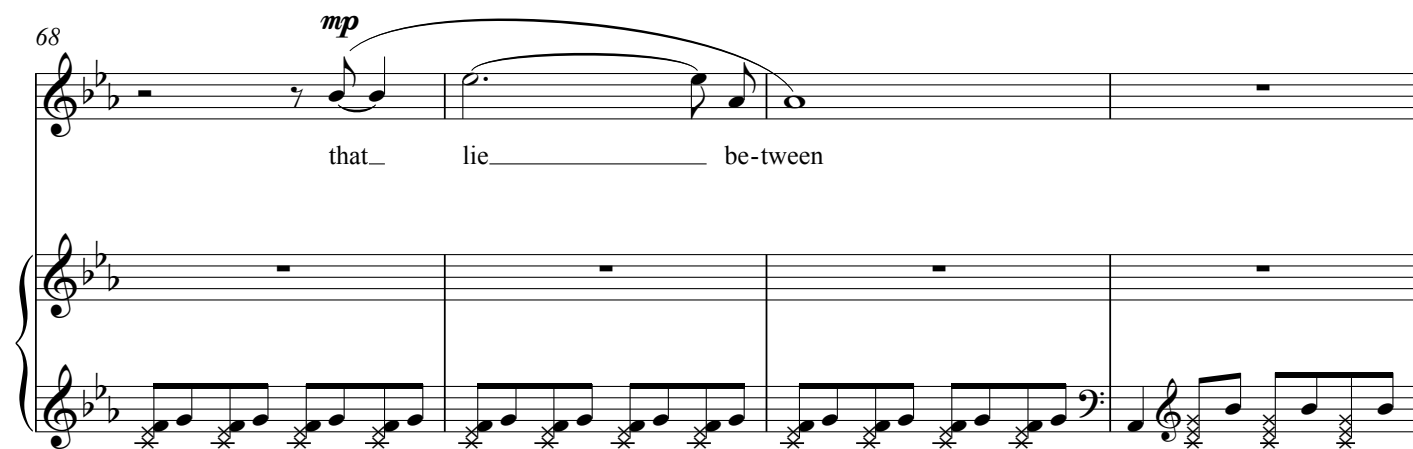
wi-thered fronds

mf



68 *mp*

that_ lie_ be-tween



72 *rit.*

its_ pa - ges.

p

