

Lesley's Birds

Lesley looked forward to the return of the bluebirds each spring. Robins and bluebirds were the first birds she mentioned in her journal. She told the story of her delight in hearing the bluebirds' song on their arrival in 1906:

“Now mama had told us pretty soon the bluebirds would come back. When we were down there I was quite startled by a song I jumped up [and] said it was a robin but mama called back no it was a bluebird. We went home and pretty soon the air was full of blue birds songs. We made little mud cakes and played try [to] make the birds eat it and we put it on the ground for them and came in and ate dinner.”



Bluebird

Knowing of Lesley's sadness at the birds' leaving in the fall, her father wrote a poem especially for her. He called it “The Message the Crow Sent Me for Lesley One Morning Lately When I Went to the Well” but later changed it to “The Last Word of a Bluebird.”



*. . . He just had to fly
But he sent her goodbye
And said to be good
And wear her red hood
And look for skunk tracks
In the snow with an axe
And do everything
And perhaps in the spring
He would come back and sing.*