

A Field Guide to Watering Hole Wildlife

(Part 1)

O ye of little faith and inflamed bronchial passages: Here it is, a field guide to a few of the species of wildlife encountered by working musicians everywhere. Study them, memorize them, don't buy them drinks.

Reverend Billy C. Wirtz

Gold Tufted Woo Finch

(*Gluteus Spandexemus*).

Plumage & Coloration:

often mottled blonde with brown extension cranial plumage; bright body coloring tightly fit over rump and reproductive regions.

Characteristics:

piercing call—woof—often emitted in response to loud music; appears to be incapable of any other communication, except during mating season (see below); often emits woo while

engaging in mating dance. **Diet:** high sugar and carbohydrate; highly specialized digestive tract adapts well to luncheon meats. **Habitat:** southeastern states and Texas; may often appear with estranged relatives on afternoon talk shows. **Mating Habits:** reproduces at early age; often favors nest of mobile variety. **Mating Call:** "Ahm drunk!"



Gray-Tufted Dodo

(*Hippus Nottabittus*).

Plumage & Coloration:

gray cranial plumage at times hidden by woven artificial layer; body covered with gray suit; often wears socks with sandals in warmer climates.

Characteristics:

several jabbering calls, including, "Hey, man, you wouldn't believe this, but my hair was longer than yours! Did you see Woodstock? Right there, off to the left of Janis? Yours truly, man. Remember Don McLean? My first roomie in college! Any chance of hearing some Billy Joel? Here's my card; call me when you're looking to buy, man." **Diet:** low-fat, low-salt. **Habitat:** aluminum siding ("it's the only way to go, man"). **Mating Habits:** infrequent. **Mating Call:** "SDWM seeks cowgirl in the sand."



Red Throated Peckerwood

(*Bocephus Maximus*).

Plumage & Coloration:

cranial plumage usually hidden under adjustable cap; top half of rump often visible beneath loose-fitting denim legwear; bottom half of abdominal region often protrudes over same legwear.

Characteristics:

large, sometimes aggressive; often associates with Woo Finch. **Distinctive call:** a screeching yee-ha! **Diet:** same as Woo Finch, with addition of certain items indigenous to water hole, particularly sausages and eggs of the pickled variety. **Habitat:** widespread, but will not nest in close proximity to North American Black Bird. **Mating Habits:** also favors mobile nest; interrelated species often found within same nest. **Mating Call:** "Git in the truck, woman!"



Common Vulture

(*Scrotus Chainjerkus*).

Plumage & Coloration:

cranial plumage similar to Gray-Tufted Dodo; upper body often covered with tour jacket or antique deceased bovine; dangling throat jewelry and detachable communication devices often visible.

Characteristics:

preys on younger, vulnerable musical species; often hides behind false coloration. **Distinctive Call:** "Send me a tape." **Diet:** cannibalistic. **Habitat:** variable; often migrates along with other members of species to large gatherings; identified by geographical coordinates. **Mating Habits:** nonselective; will attempt mating with any species possessing a pulse. **Mating Call:** "Trust me."

