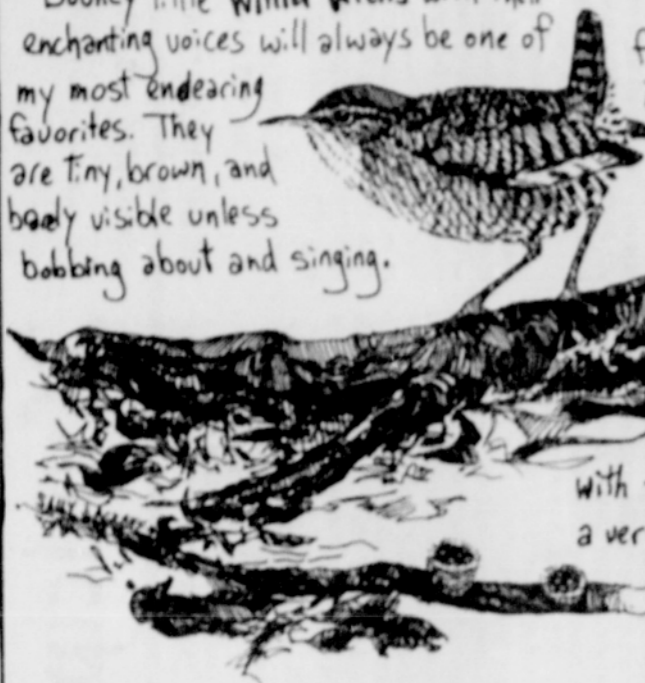


FAVORITE WILDLIFE ON THE EDGE

Bouncy little Winter Wrens with their enchanting voices will always be one of my most endearing favorites. They are tiny, brown, and badly visible unless bobbing about and singing.



An odd (and disturbing) historical fact ~ on St. Stephen's Day (Dec. 26) in Medieval England, it was the custom of various peoples to go out to the hedgerows and shoot these sweet little birds; apparently for some religious benefit.

It is nice to be acquainted with the Bird's Nest Fungus. It is a very interesting individual, appearing to me in every way, except perhaps taste, almost exactly like a miniature bowl of lentil soup.

Not many have seen or indeed know about Aplodontias. Some may know them as mountain beavers, but in fact these burrowing little rodents are in a family all their own. They live only here in the Pacific Northwest, and are both nocturnal and shy - rarely encountered. Aplodontias are strict vegetarians, very unassuming and respectable. They like dampish woody areas for their extensive burrows; and as our forests are rapidly depleted, it is scary and sad to think that this sweet, harmless little creature could disappear - and we might never know.



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 —Voltaire
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The Upper Left Edge supports recycling. We make our regular trip to the Cannon Beach recycling depot. In fact, your beloved Reverend Hults has spent a goodly amount of time on the line at the depot, helping process the tons of material our community diverts from the landfill. The rest of the Edge staff are no slouches either, when it came to time spent in service of recycling. And so, it was with serious dismay that we witnessed the following scene at the town recycling depot: the recycling crew was topping-off a truck load of old carpet, rusted chairs, window glass, a sink, a screen door, and rotten white fence posts.

The Upper Left Edge supports recycling. But, garbage is not recycling. When asked about the situation, John Rippey, the town recycling coordinator, explained the situation. The crew arrived at the recycling depot, ready to process the day's recyclables and were confronted with the trash. Cleaning up the rubbish, disposing of it, cleaning up the site and filing the appropriate complaints took two hours. Your beloved Reverend remembers a couple of such incidents as a volunteer. It's frustrating to arrive at recycling to find all manner of household junk and trash left by some idiot, as though we, the recyclers, could magically transform this crap into recyclables, while said idiot saves a trip to the landfill.

Let's go through this one more time - garbage is not recycling. Rippey pointed out that dumping is relatively rare, but costly to the program. "For the most part, our town is highly conscientious about recycling. I'd say 98% of the time recycling here is done properly with good intent. It's the periodic, negligent jerk who costs the crew time, the taxpayers money and the volunteers morale. In urban, industrial areas, where there is sufficient volume and technical wherewithal, some of this stuff might be recycled. But, this is a small, rural town on the coast. In this particular case, thoughtlessness or ignorance don't even enter into it. This was simply malicious laziness, dumping material obviously meant for the landfill."

Not to be redundant, but the Upper Left Edge reminds you, garbage is not recycling. Recycling efforts in our small community have been going on for almost twenty years now and there is no excuse for this behavior. It's enough to make us long for the good old days of public humiliation and mea culpas. Perhaps we could construct a pillory and stocks across from Osborn's porch. In any case, the Edge wants you to know the carpets were red, with a square pattern & small diamonds in the corners, and multi-colored greyish with what looked like a green stain in one corner. There were plastic white and pink lawn chairs (rusted), the double sink, and a screen door. Sound familiar? was it yours? your landlords? some idiot from down the block? from out of town? from out of state? off the planet? ... Whatever the case, The Upper Left Edge is offering a reward for information leading to this idiot.

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