

## **BIRD MYTHS & SUPERSTITIONS #6 EUROPEAN ROBIN**

Robins with their cheery red breasts adorn many Christmas cards and decorations, and there are several stories as to how the robin acquired its red breast feathers. In the Christian tradition, it is thought that a robin tried to remove the thorns from Jesus' head during the Crucifixion, and that drops of his blood fell onto the bird and stained his breast feathers red forever. In another myth, the robin gained his red breast from flying into the fiery wastes of hell to carry water to the stricken sinners who were suffering there for all eternity. The robin is another bird where it is believed that if they are seen tapping on the window or flying into a room that a member of the household will soon be dead. It is considered to be very unlucky to kill a robin, and if you break a robin's eggs expect something important of yours to be broken very soon. Make a wish when you see the first robin of the year for good luck, and note that if you see a robin singing in the open that good weather is on its way, but that if the robin is seen sheltering among the branches of a tree that it will soon rain. Also, if the first bird that you see on St Valentine's Day is a robin, it means that you are destined to marry a sailor!

Concludes

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BIRD KEEPING IN AUSTRALIA