

For release                    By Major A.H. Thiessen  
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Halcyon days! The origin of these days of quiet and contentment dates back to Greek mythology. Ceyx, the husband of Alcyone, was drowned; and, when Alcyone found the body, the gods changed them both into kingfishers. Zeus then, out of compassion for them, ordered that during the brooding season of these birds (which lasts for two weeks after Dec. 15) no wind should blow. It was believed that they laid their eggs in nests on the water, and wind might blow eggs and nests out to sea. This is not the case, however, as kingfishers have nests in caves near the water. Another superstition regarding these birds is that if their bodies are hung freely in the air, their breasts turn into the wind, even in a closed room.