

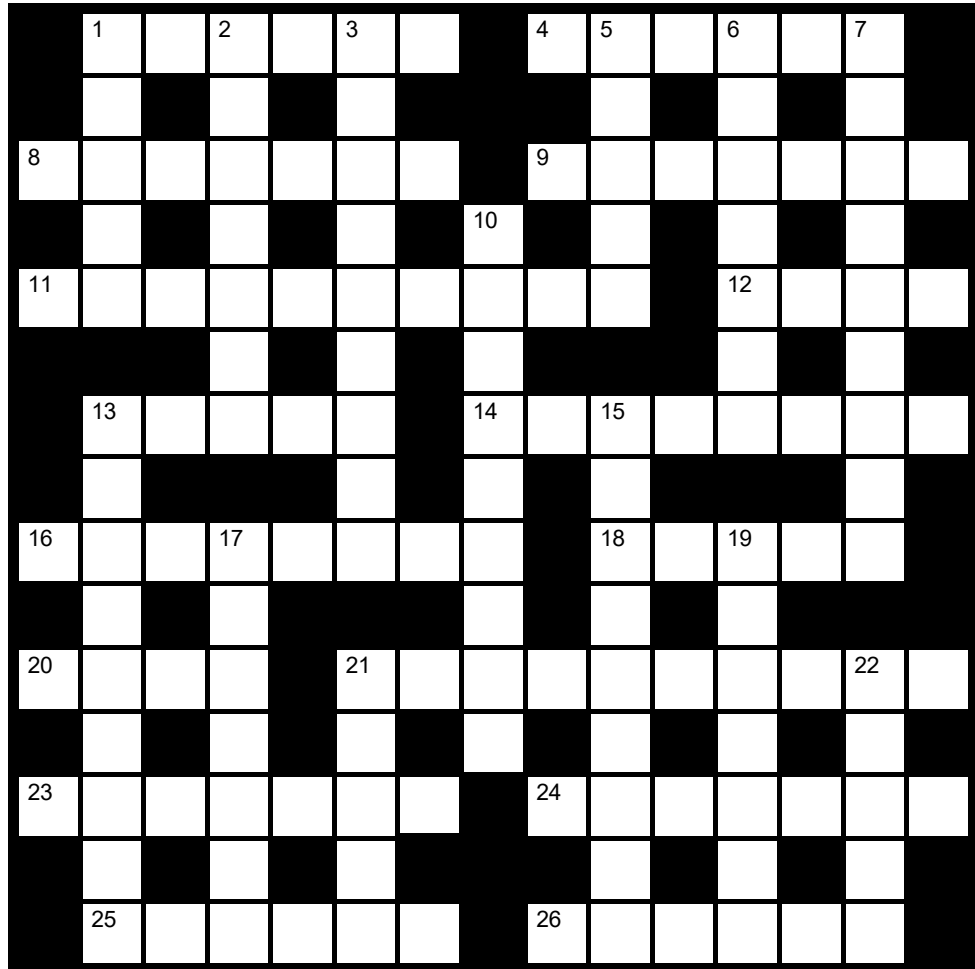
NTSPP 652 - Birdsong

by Chalicea

A number of answers in the puzzle will point to the theme, although the puzzle can still be solved without any knowledge of the theme

Across

- 1 Unfortunately is sued for neglect (6)
- 4 Second courses following end of firsts (6)
- 8 Reportedly grieving between dawn and noon (7)
- 9 About more promising bishop's staff (7)
- 11 Administering angry tirade chasing small car on street (10)
- 12 Bit of loathsome swearing (4)
- 13 In front of us low wetland is not genuine (5)
- 14 Old policemen's fallen arches produce these (8)
- 16 The French person who sells American fragrant shrub (8)
- 18 Greek idiot's an informer (5)
- 20 Black and white seabirds return for this gull-like predator (4)
- 21 Revolutionary coterie ran activity done for enjoyment (10)
- 23 First of vultures is it? Or maybe a migratory bird (7)
- 24 Gradual absorption of brine essentially in old-style northern peat bog (7)
- 25 Rejection overturned in business transaction going around (6)



- 26 Shattered, hard up and terminally down (6)

Down

- 1 Detective Inspector extremely warm inside Hindu garment (5)
- 2 Committing oneself to work with grand put down for vocal performances (7)
- 3 Exceptional tidiness involving area made hygienic (9)

- 5 Foremost tree on street (5)
- 6 Gradually slacken and partly release officialdom (4,3)
- 7 Redolence of singular little Scottish essentially distant headland (9)
- 10 Damaged rifle chap sold at 50% discount (4-5)
- 13 Broken-hearted at first to be without singer; species of thrush (9)

- 15 Warmonger spatters grass with mangled gore (9)
- 17 Exhilaration of Latino, tipsy after last drop of spumante (7)
- 19 In biblical ship tense brawl over decorative material (7)
- 21 Spanish wine from Brazilian city, 'Yes' for a German (5)
- 22 Couple of negatives raised about one tear-jerker (5)