

“It sounded like a great opportunity for me to learn more about a group of bees that I was less familiar with as well as contribute to meaningful research,” she said

Kilpatrick enjoyed studying and collecting insects and that discovering these new bee species was exciting and an amazing experience.

“Collecting insects and studying them is one of my passions. I had always thought that it would be amazing to discover a new species, but never expected that I would,” she said. “I was thrilled to learn that the bees I had collected represented new species. I was also greatly honored when Dr. Gibbs chose to name one of the new bee species after me and could hardly believe it.”

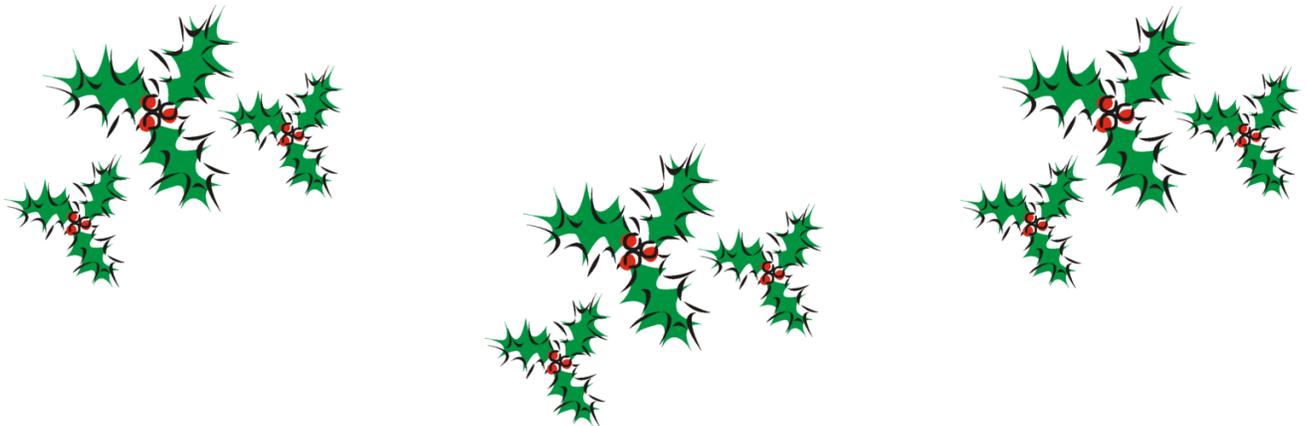
She said that the Dominica study abroad was great and she learned about collecting insects and gained a better understanding of what it takes in a field research career.

“Studying abroad in Dominica had several positive impacts on my academic study. I am interested in pursuing a career in entomology, especially as it relates to agriculture and natural resources research,” Kilpatrick said. “The hands on field research experience that I gained as a result of this study abroad program are invaluable.”

Kilpatrick will definitely be applying what she had learned in Dominica to her upper level courses and will help her in her future studies.

“This opportunity will direct my future studies at Texas A&M University and ultimately my career and future life,” she said. “I would highly recommend studying abroad to any student who is considering it and has the opportunity to do so.”

Article printed by permission from Shelby. She is from the class of 2012. Shelby's mother, Susan Kilpatrick is from the class of 2006.





Partridge in a Pear Tree



The following article was taken from:
www.icyousee.org/twelvebirds.html



“THE 12 BIRDS OF CHRISTMAS

research and speculative detective work by

John R. Henderson

“Introduction

It was more than a decade ago when I first started investigating the avian secrets behind the 12 Days of Christmas. The lyrics sound merry and jolly, but may I suggest for your thinking that they just might obscure a mixture of numerology and astronomical mnemonics and pagan cosmology. Could it be that hidden in one of the most popular Christmas carols are pre-Christian pagan symbols linked to both **numbers** and **birds**? **If true, then yes, birds are in all the verses.**

“When you sing **The Twelve Days of Christmas**, you probably had no idea you might be reciting an ancient secret catechism centuries older than Christianity. After the 8th century in England and elsewhere in Europe, Christian persecution of Anglo-Celtic pagans forced them to practice their faith clandestinely and disguise what they were doing. Could one remnant of their ancient faith be **The Twelve Days of Christmas**, a song that could be sung in public without risk of persecution?

“The version of the *Twelve Days of Christmas* that we know today dates back only as far as 1909, when arranger Frederic Austin’s transcription of the words and his own tune were published in London. There were many different versions published before then, but none were printed with any accompanying music. The three earliest versions in print date back to about 1780. One was found in a song book for children published in London that year, and the other two were broadsides, neither dated, but most likely from about the same time, one printed in Newcastle, Northumberland, and the other printed in Boston, Massachusetts. The three were almost identical; the two from England matched, and in American version, one gift/day was different. Where pipers were piping in England, cocks were crowing in Boston. All three differed from the 1909 version that is usually heard. The order of the gifts are not the same on the days nine through twelve. The song was old when it was first published, however; many centuries older. Scholars believe the song is earlier than Shakespeare, some date it as far back as the end of the eleventh century. One scholar has found what she thinks are elements of the song in a damaged manuscript from the seventh century, the time of Beowulf, the great heroic pagan poem.

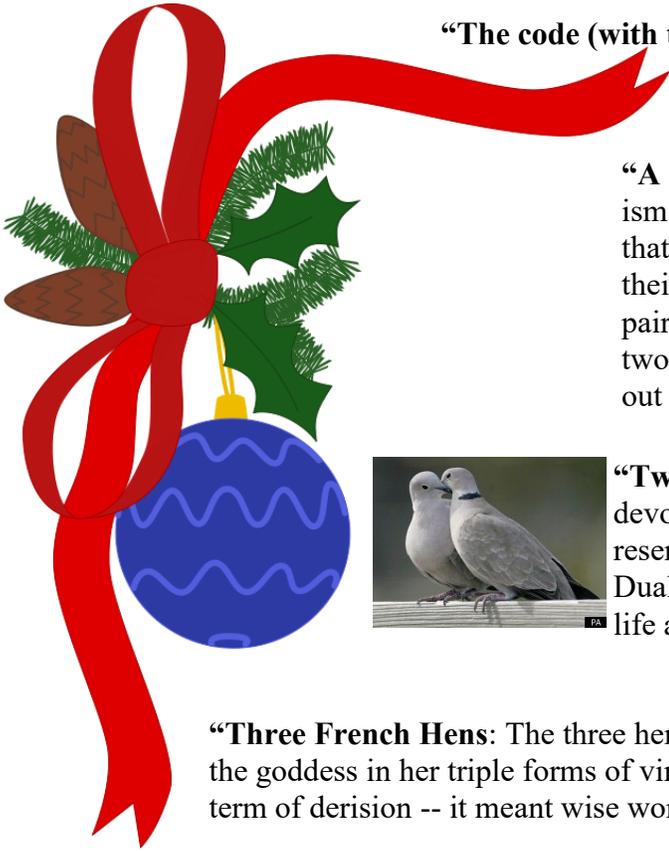
“Arguments have been made that such a silly song can't be a hymn of any religion, so it must be a children's song or party song. However, Christianity's solemnity in celebration is not shared by all religions. Pre-Christian pagans would hardly be an exception in celebrating special days with revelry and merrymaking, so the frivolity of the song might actually provide even more evidence of the song's true non-Christian origins.

“The pagans may have already been singing of the twelve days of **Yule**. Long before Christians sung about the Twelve days of Christmas, ancient Celts observed twelve days of Yule at mid-winter. It was called mid-winter because they divided the year into only two seasons. Yule lasted for twelve days because the ancients believed that the sun stood still for twelve days. In addition to the Twelve Days of Christmas, there are several other holiday songs with counting to twelve that likely have pagan origins: Jolly Old Hawk and The Dilly Song (also known as Green Grow the Rushes-O).

“Most of what we know about the Anglo-Celtic pagan religion comes from Christian writers condemning it â€“ or through the ways in which Christian priests modified the pagan customs for their own purposes. What the Anglo-Celts actually believed will never be known for sure. But there are clues. We know numbers had special significance to them, and we know that birds were honored as holy. Here for your delight and critical appraisal is my proposed code to decipher the song.



“The code (with the gifts presented in the pre-Twentieth Century order)



“A Partridge in a Pear Tree: The symbolism of the partridge comes from the fact that in the winter months, partridges leave their large flocks and form monogamous pairs (i.e. in a "pear" tree). As a pair, the two become one, and this Oneness, formed from the "two" out of the "many," is the ultimate Good.



“Two Turtle Doves: Turtle doves have long been emblems of devoted love. But with their mournful voices, turtle doves represent both love and loss. This is just one of many important Dualities: male and female, day and night, summer and winter, life and death.

“Three French Hens: The three hens are, quite simply, an allusion to the goddess in her triple forms of virgin, mother, and hag. Hag was not a term of derision -- it meant wise woman.



“Four Colly Birds: The birds are really Colly Birds, not Calling Birds. Colly birds may be any of several coal-black birds – crows, jackdaws, rooks, or ravens. These birds of the night carry the power and mystery of the dark season of the year. The raven was the bird of battle. Four is an important number to link with the darkness, since Four is the number of the Earth, which, though now asleep and filled in darkness, is still a potent elemental source of power.

“Five Golden Rings: They may not sound bird-like to you, but these are ring-necked pheasants. Not native to Europe, pheasants had been introduced there during Roman times and were quite common throughout Europe before the rise of Christianity. Pheasants were symbols of the element of Fire and sensuous sexuality. The number Five also represents sensuality and magic. Ever wonder why there is so much emphasis, rhythmically, to this verse?



“Six Geese A-Laying: The important element is the "a-laying" part. The Egg represents the creation cycle of birth, death, re-birth. And what about the number Six? Because of the shape of the number, which is a continuous, spiraling curve without angle, it too represents the cycle of life. Geese also represent Water, another of the Middle Ages' four elements.