

The Sapphire Squiblet



The plumage of the sapphire squiblet is thought by most apiarists to once have assisted it in flight. Years of foraging for its feed on the forest floor under the cover of the fronds of ferns left this tiny avian all but flightless. Apiarists believe that it was a much more easy target for raptors in the sky that it was hidden under leaves on the ground. Another ability that might have assisted it in surviving, and perhaps the one it is the most well-known for, is its ability to see a few

seconds into the future. While debate still persists about whether the squiblet's ability is akin to true clairvoyance or just a highly astute form of intuition, most scholars agree that the bird can sense certain events before they happen.

This ability of the squiblet has been put to use all over the land of Throkam. The Ichui miners use squiblets to warn them of tunnel collapses. the Claspir use them to navigate safely through the treacherous southern waters. Nobles, when travelling to the domains of other nobles use them to safeguard themselves. Merchants navigating dangerous trade routes use them to avoid bandits. This explosion in the use of squiblets in all areas of trade, politics and activity has led to a steady decline in their populations in the wild. As a result, the prices they fetch in unregulated markets have skyrocketed, making catching one an easy way to make easy coin. This has profoundly permeated into everyday Throic life to the extent that phrases such as "having squiblets up one's sleeve" (meaning to be excessively rich) have become a part of the common speech of the country.

Property of His Majesty's Royal Apiarist Ser Gwenroldt