

THE 'NIGHTINGALE' THAT SANG IN ARGYLL SQUARE

*'To cease upon the midnight with no pain,
While thou art pouring forth thy soul abroad
In such an ecstasy!'*

John Keats, Ode to a Nightingale

THE BEAUTY sleep of residents in some parts of Oban has been adversely affected recently by the nocturnal activities of Britain's national bird.

With the advent of shorter daytime hours and longer nights, most small birds are content simply to eat and drink to survive. However, in the weeks leading up to this Christmas past, the town's Robin population has taken the motto 'Eat, Drink and Be Merry' to heart, with late night sing-song parties leaving locals reaching for the Mogadon tablets in order to secure a night's sleep.

Although widespread throughout Oban, it appears that this phenomenon has particularly adversely affected residents in one part of town.

Robins in the Dalintart area of Oban burst into life, at a time when the local human population



are trying to achieve a bit of shut-eye after a hard day at the office. It appears that birds, whose winter territories bound the grounds of Oban High School, are among the worst offenders, choosing to exercise their 'vocal chords' throughout the night, with regular performances at one o'clock and three o'clock in the morning!

'Bloomin birds'

One bleery-eyed local resident was heard to moan : 'Do these birds ever go to sleep?

If I could see them, I'd catch and murder those bloomin' birds!' (Which, considering their protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), and this species' popularity, would be a treasonable offence, punishable with a fate worse than death.)

However, don't expect Bobby Robin to be up before the 'beaks' in the New Year, on a charge

