



locate one of these elfin musicians. He is right here. Then you turn the other ear. No, he's over there. He's like a ventriloquist. Press on your flashlight and if your eyes are keen, you'll see the little wings elevated or even bent forward. The inside edges rub together very much like a bow crosses the strings of a fiddle. You will be amazed that such a loud clear sound can come from such a tiny instrument. The membrane of the transparent wing is as taut as a drum.

Stranger than fiction, you will discover that the female of the species is silent. The male is a little artist that does not wander about seeking his lady love. He stands steadily at his own gate fiddling in the faith that his sweetheart will like his song and come of her own free will.

The little tree crickets each have six legs with slender bodies. The hind legs are shaped like those of a grasshopper. They are good jumpers. The male and female are easily identified because the female has a slender, round body and what looks like a thin, little tail which is called an ovipositor. With this she punctures a twig or a cane and deposits her tiny eggs. The male has flat, gauze-like wings resting on the top of his back. Both of them have long, slender antennae that move continuously like living threads.

At night when you slip into bed and draw up the covers, if you are a lover of nature, you are conscious of the throbbing of the cricket heart of September. It is a delightful, rhythmic, sleep-inspiring music, the most comforting of all the sounds of nature.