

Birdies, Eagles, Bogies and Buzzards

In 1903, A.H. Smith of Atlantic City, after holing in one better than par, commented, "That's a bird of a show!" The term "birdie" was born, and later "eagle" for two under par and "Albatross" for three under par came as a natural extension of the avian metaphor. "Albatross" survived in Britain until recent times, but in this country it gave way to "double eagle."

"Bogey" originally meant the standard of play for a good amateur, and was a little easier than the slightly older term "par," the standard for professionals and championship class amateurs.

Both allowed two putts on the green. Over the years, the meaning of "bogey" has changed to a score of one over par on a hole while "par" has remained the term for a score of a scratch player.

However, in the old days there was one more "bird" in the golf vocabulary. In his autobiography *Down the*



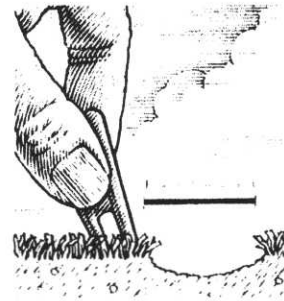
Fairway, Bobby Jones wrote: Old Man Par is a patient soul, who never shoots a birdie and never incurs a "buzzard." The "buzzard" is a bird not renowned for its beauty. So, if you guessed that "buzzard" meant "double bogey" you are quite right! Today, of course "buzzards," like the dodo are extinct. But, it must be admitted that making a "buzzard" on a hole sounds a lot better than a "double bogey" — especially today when no one will know what you mean! Maybe we should revive the term!

The Proper Method To Repair a Ball Mark

1 Use prolonged ball mark repair tool, knife, key or tee.



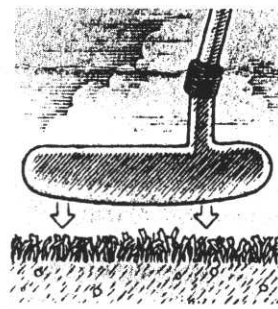
2 Insert at the edges of the mark—not the middle of the depression.



3 Bring the edges together with a gentle twisting motion, but don't lift the center. Try not to tear the grass.



4 Smooth the surface with a club or foot. You're done when it's a surface that you would putt over.



Facts About Golf Courses

The golf experience can be made more pleasurable for all by following posted instructions, repairing divots and fixing ball marks (as shown above).

- A ball mark repaired immediately will heal smoothly in two to three days, but an unrepaired ball mark will heal unevenly in two to three weeks.
- A square yard of well-maintained golf course turf contains an average of 300 earthworms.
- A typical 18-hole golf course produces enough oxygen to support 4,000 to 7,000 people.
- Golf courses nationwide combine to filter 13 million tons of dust from the air every year.
- What is the potential impact of a metal spike golf shoe? Consider that the average golf shoe has 12 spikes. The average number of steps on a putting green is 56. That means an 18-hole course averaging 200 rounds a day withstands nearly 2.5 million spike marks a day and 72.5 million a month.
- Golf courses provide recreation to more than 25 million people annually, an economic impact of more than \$18 million annually.

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(Editor's Note: A camera-ready graphic illustrating the proper method to repair a ball mark is available through the GCSAA service center at 1-800-472-7878. This feature can be copied directly from its 10-by-5-inch layout and distributed through direct mailings, posted on bulletin boards or laminated for display on plaques on your golf course.)