

SOME HINTS ON FINDING NESTS.

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Taking our various species in somewhat the order they nest, I will begin with the birds that dig holes in wood.

The Brown-headed Nuthatch and Carolina Chickadee need to be looked after when "digging," and the way to find the nests is to listen for the sound of the bird's bill on the wood, as he chisels off chips from the inside of the cavity. Nuthatches especially need to be located when digging, as they take very little time lining the cavity. Chickadees, however, may often be located by watching the bird collect nesting materials. The chief difficulty here is that the Chickadee frequently gets his material at some distance from the nest.

Pine Warblers must be located when building. The singing male will usually have his wife somewhere near by, and if she is building, she usually betrays the fact by a more restless and pre-occupied air than when she is merely searching the pine trees for worms and insects. Here, again, one must pay particular attention to any female seen taking a long, straight flight into a tree; a bird usually has a more direct, business-like way of flying when carrying material to its nest than when merely flitting from tree to tree.

The Tufted Tit must also be watched when building, and he needs a great deal of watching, as he, like his small cousin, gets his building material from a long way off; but he makes up for that in a measure by carrying a good big bunch of stuff in his mouth; enough to make his building operations a tolerably evident fact to all that see him and are ready to profit by observation.

Louisiana Water Thrushes' nests must be found by a careful exploration of the small streams they build in.

Blue-gray Gnat-catchers' are most easily found by watching the bird building; when a nest is found, however, it is not by any means always takeable.

Whip-poor-wills' eggs are found by a careful search of the localities they frequent, and then if you go at the right time and flush the bird, you generally get a set.

For Red-eyed Vireo, it seems best to look for nests with eggs in. When I have found nests building, they have, in a majority of cases, been afterwards deserted. A careful search of the ends of drooping limbs in the neighborhood of an uneasy pair usually reveals a nest.

Hummingbirds' are found by watching the birds building and also by carefully searching whenever a female Hummer makes a good deal of fuss in one's neighborhood. An agitated Hummer usually means a nest, but it does not always mean a nice, fresh set.

Field Sparrows' and Chats' are found by searching in low bushes and thickets, also by watching the birds building. Chipping Sparrows' may be found by scrutinizing the ends of the long limbs of good-sized pines; they nest more in such situations than anywhere else.

Acadian Flycatchers' are found by careful search in the neighborhood of any pairs that seem disturbed or alarmed by one's presence.

For Blue Grosbeak' one has to locate the territory a pair range over, and then search in all likely places for the nest.

