

BIRD'S NESTS. NO. 2.

GREEN HERON.

July 26, 1896, 2:15 P. M.—It was a sultry day, and after tramping a mile, I had scarcely heard the note of a single bird. I forced my way, as quietly as I could, among the tall weeds and plum brush into a slight opening where the plum thicket of the hill-side and the crab-apple thicket of the bottom-land join. Just as I did so an old Green Heron, with a great "quawk," flew from a limb above her nest, where she had been feeding one of her three young ones. They had clambered about four feet above the nest and stood with outstretched necks panting for breath in the hot sun, motionless, except for the quick pulsations of their little throats. The old one made such a noise at my approach that one of the young became frightened and let fall a four-inch sun-fish which it had just swallowed. As long as I watched, the old one kept up a continuous harsh cry of "kuck"—"kuck"—sometimes almost as loud as its call of "quawk," and sometimes, when I remained motionless, letting its voice fall till it sounded like the steady tap-tap of a hammer in the distance, though the bird was only three or four feet away. The young were almost covered with feathers above, while below there was nothing but white down. They had more or less down all over. Their breasts were streaked with brown and white. On the throat the streaks were finer. The feathers on the back appeared to be black, tinged with greenish and edged with rufous brown. There was a white stripe at the bend of the shoulder. Their eyes were very bright and their feet were large, of a dull yellow, tinged with green. Their bills were flesh-colored, with black tips, and in the sun appeared translucent. After leaving this nest, twenty-six feet further on I found another Green Heron's nest, thirteen feet from the ground in a crab-apple tree. It contained four young, entirely covered with whitish down. They became alarmed at my coming up the tree, and each little fellow opened wide his bill and dropped a sun-fish about two and one-half inches long at me. Though they were so young, they began to scramble up the thorny branches a full foot above the nest. At this time I had never heard of this habit, but since, I see Mr. Harry C. Oberholser has recorded it.* One was in

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such a hurry he lost his balance and hung by his strong feet, holding his "chin" above the limb, but still unable to pull up his fat little body. I put him, struggling, back into the nest where he with apparent astonishment stared at me as I descended. This is the first time I have ever found these birds nesting close together, but according to the books they do occasionally nest in small colonies. It was several days before I had an opportunity to visit them again, but when I did so, I found them still mostly covered with down but already several feet away from the nest, hiding in the grape vines which covered the tops of the trees. After I was sure they had no further use for the nests I took both home for examination. The dimensions in inches are as follows: (Where two dimensions are given under a single heading the maximum and minimum are meant.)

NEST NO.	HEIGHT.	DEPTH.	INSIDE TOP DIAMETER.	OUTSIDE TOP DIAMETER.	OUTSIDE BOTTOM DIAMETER.	WIDTH OF RIM.	WEIGHT IN OUNCES.
1	5	2	7x5	12x9	7x6	3x1	5
2	5	3	8x6	17x13	8x7	5x3	10

The first nest, which was in a plum tree, eight feet from the ground on a horizontal limb at the base of two nearly opposite branches, contained the following:—199 pieces of Plum (*Prunus americana*) sticks measuring 108 feet; 43 of Willow (*Salix sp?*) 24 feet. 23 of Box Elder (*Acer negundo*) 12 feet; 1 of cherry (*Prunus serotina*) 7 inches; and 1 of Great Ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*) 5 inches. The largest piece in the nest was of Willow, 21 inches. The total number of pieces was 267 and the total length 145 feet. The second nest, which was in a crab-apple tree thirteen feet from the ground, was built on a similar branch and contained:—206 pieces of Crab (*Pyrus ioensis*) sticks measuring 108 feet; 16 of Willow, 11½ feet; 3 of Haw (*Crataegus punctata*) 2 feet; 10 of Box Elder, 8½ feet; 6 of Plum, 4 feet; 2 of Osage Orange (*Toxylon pomiferum*) 2 feet; 14 of Grape (*Vitis vulpina*) 12 feet; and 8 of Waahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*) roots, 9 feet. The longest piece in the nest was of Waahoo root, two and one-half feet. The total number of pieces was 265 and the total length 157 feet. This gives us the rather novel result of a difference of only two in the number of pieces, and but twelve feet more material in one nest than the other; also, though the nests were but twenty-six feet apart, one was in a plum tree in a thicket of the same and contained almost three times as many plum twigs as all other material put together. The second nest, built in a crab-apple tree in a thicket of crabs mixed with some other trees, contained the same

number of feet of crab twigs as the first had of plum; also the crab twigs composed three and one half times as many pieces as all the other materials together. As to whether the birds break dead twigs from the trees or pick from the ground I cannot say; but if the former, it would have been possible for the birds to climb over the trees and without going to the ground to have obtained all the materials used in the first nest within twenty or thirty feet of the nest, and the bulk of the second nest the same. The two pieces of Osage Orange appeared to have been picked from the brushwood, and the Waahoo roots evidently came from the creek bank not more than fifty feet distant. At present I will not draw any conclusions; but the facts would indicate: That it was possible that the bulk of the material was picked from the trees and not from the ground; also the birds made use of the material which was most easily obtainable.

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THE LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO, WINTER BIRD FAUNA FOR 1898-9.

The work of determining with some degree of completeness what is our winter bird fauna for any given year as well as for a term of years, which was begun in December, 1897, has been continued during the season just closed. An account of that work may be of interest as a comparison with the 1897-8 results.

The severe storm of November 19-22, which swept from Montana sharply south-eastward across the central Mississippi Valley and upper lake region, thence north-eastward into Ontario, when it rapidly diminished, ushered in an early Winter, with snow as far south as Kentucky and freezing temperature nearly to the Gulf. Freezing temperatures continued in Ohio during the remainder of November and into December, with readings of 10°, 8° and 5° on the 8th, 10th and 14th of December, respectively. About the middle of December a marked warm wave overspread the country, which continued, with moderate fluctuations, until the close of the month, when another cold wave swept down from the north-west. During this warm period Bluebirds, Robins and Meadowlarks were many times reported.

The first few days of January were moderately warm, but the zero