

ROOSTING.

I do not know how much proof can be offered in support of the popular belief that it habitually roosts in the tree cavities. While it is to be inferred that it frequently does so in cold or stormy weather whenever suitable chambers are available, yet I very much doubt whether accommodations could be found within reasonable distances for more than five per cent. of the number flocking previous to the autumnal migrations as well as the winter season in the south. During the warm summer months it is reasonable to suppose that it would prefer the open air to the hot and stuffy chamber of wood, except of course the short period necessary to hatch and protect callow young.

Alexander Wilson relates how a captive slept in a perpendicular position with its head under its wing. An interesting observation comes from Mexico, Missouri: On a cold blustery evening of the spring of '94, a Flicker was observed roosting on the south-west side of the bare trunk of an elm close to the house. The year following, on the warm and balmy evening of April 9th, another bird flew into the same elm and with a little scrambling and investigation it disappeared behind the trunk to a niche a little below the crotch of two upright limbs, with its whole body in contact with the bark of the tree and its neck shortened back into its body—it was evidently in a roosting position. Now as it was not known whether the previous visitor had staid all night, this one was carefully and perhaps too closely watched, as it left at the call of a passing mate. The next night was cooler with a north-east wind and a lowering misty vapor in the west, but not very threatening. At 6:30 the same or another female alighted and quietly shuffled around on the south side to the identical spot occupied for a time the previous evening, but at 7 o'clock it too had vanished.—J. Newton Baskett. Bendire quotes a Maine correspondent who once found a Flicker asleep on the outside of

a tree one moon-light night ; as there was no bird on the nest, it roosted in that position from choice. At Oberlin College a single bird roosted between the vertical water pipe and wall of Spear Library for two successive winters, and another occupied the cupola of the Theological Seminary the succeeding winter. —Prof. Lynds Jones. A correspondent makes note of it cutting its way through weather boarding of vacant summer residences at Cape Cod for no apparent reason except for shelter, and at Taunton seeking shelter in the deep evergreen swamps or excavating winter quarters in the sawdust lining of ice houses. It has also been known to roost in hollow trees, outbuildings about farm houses and unused chimneys during the coldest seasons.