

A DOUBLE NEST OF RED-EYED VIREO.

LYNDS JONES.

The accompanying illustration represents a nest of the Red-eyed Vireo, taken more than a dozen years ago at my old home in Iowa. As shown in the illustration, there were two eggs in one side and one in the other. When the nest was found the mother bird was sitting upon the two egg side, but there were evidences showing that she had also sat upon the one egg side. To all appearances the two nests are exactly alike, and each is practically complete, only a small amount of the material being common to both nests. It could rarely happen that a main branch would have two twigs growing from it on opposite sides at almost the same level, and at practically the same angle. It is hardly conceivable that two females or two pairs of birds could have built these nests. At any rate, there was no evidence of it, for only one pair of birds was to be found in the vicinity. Neither is it likely that the male built one nest while the female built the other. The evidence is strongly in favor of the same architect for both nests. It looks like a case of indecision between two equally favorable nesting sites. We are not surprised at evidences of indecision in the Long-billed Marsh Wren—if that is indecision rather than a method of working off superfluous energy—but the Vireos have not been supposed to do such things.

THE CLOCK FACTORY.

ESTHER CRAIGMILE.

Our little party was eager with expectancy, for it stood on the edge of a pine grove from which proceeded no small commotion. It was eleven o'clock in the morning and the colony was just retiring for the day. We were nearer now, and could see they were Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*). Some parent birds sat silently at the top of the dead pines, while some were feeding the young. The larger trees contained three and four nests. Three or

four eager heads were outstretched from these nests, while some were making awkward attempts at walking on the naked pine branches. There were hundreds of nests in an area of about two acres.

The young kept up a constant ticking, fast and slow, high and low, while an occasional *squawk* was heard from one of the old birds. It was a typical clock factory, where the *squawk* played the part of the cuckoo clock, and the young ticked off the seconds. They seemed little disturbed by our party of six walking below them. It was little wonder that the flock had killed the beautiful pine grove, when the ground underneath was carpeted with twigs. The whitewashed undergrowth was developing ruggedly in spite of the environment. Pieces of pale blue shell, dead fish and one dead bird, half grown, were found below the nests. Barring all sensations of the olfactory tract, it was a delightful experience.

THE NEW YEAR BIRD CENSUS.

This, our second annual bird census, shows an increase of near 50 per cent. in the number of reports sent in, and that in the face of more wintry weather and general difficulty in getting into the fields. The reports show that even under the most adverse conditions the birds are certain to be present in some numbers.

Vicinity of Alma, Lincoln County, Maine. Time 9:25 to 11:55 a. m. Weather fine, no wind. Temperature 6 to 22.

Redpoll, one flock of 30; Red-breasted Nuthatch, one flock of about 8; Chickadee, 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2.

Total, 4 species about 47 individuals.

HAROLD E. PORTER, CHARLES H. ROGERS.

Bristol, Conn. Time 7:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Weather, cloudy at first, clearing by 8:30 a. m., clear the rest of the day. Six inches of snow, powdered over by a light fall the day before.

Bob-white, 6, and fresh tracks; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 16; Crow, 205+; American Goldfinch, 250+; Tree Sparrow, 102+; Junco, 15; Song Sparrow, 1; Winter Wren, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Chickadee, 14; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Hermit Thrush, 1.

Total, 16 species, over 630 individuals.

ELBERT E. SMITH, FRANK BRUEN.