

NATURE NOW By Lydia King Freshie Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

Feathered Friends In Nesting Period

As you read these lines bird nesting will be moving toward its full crescendo. Nature makes of this procedure, with its attendant activity, the fullest and most important period in the lives of our feathered friends.

Bird nests present an endless variety in materials and manner of construction. A descriptive list would fill a book. Materials used include parts of nearly every kind of land plant as well as feathers, hair, skin, shells and skeletal remains of animals. Many species also choose a variety of man-made objects including such common items as cloth, paper and string.

ALTHOUGH EACH species follows its own instinctive pattern, odd substitutions must often be made. As children, we loved to peep into the cup-like nests of the chipmunk sprig with its neat lining of horse-hair. In today's mechanized world fine grasses and weeds and rootlets may be used as a substitute.

C. L. Broley, Florida's "Eagleman," reports finding golf balls, electric light bulbs, fish plugs and lines, various items of clothing and a copy of The American Weekly in the five-foot pile of debris that made an eagle's nest. In one such structure was found a white rubber ball which the bird incubated for six weeks after its own eggs were hatched.

KINGFISHERS use fish bones and regurgitated scales in their nests. A crested flycatcher does not consider his job finished until he has added a piece of discarded snake skin to his nest.

A yellow warbler was observed making hundreds of trips while lining its nest with tiny beak-fulls of the tomentum from the fruiting frond of the cinnamon fern. The red-breasted nuthatch sews the entrance to his nest-hole with the pitch from evergreen trees.

ALONG OUR north-east Atlantic coast the puffin, a bird of the high seas, lays a single white egg at the bottom of a deep burrow made by the male. The oven bird is named for the shape of its nest—a little structure of earth and leaves hidden on the ground in dense woods or thickets.

On trips through the Cascade range we have seen the water ouzel or "dipper" fly through a sheet of rushing water to its nest of living moss cemented to the rock wall of some slender cascade.

In the spruce forests of the Maine coast we observed the parula warbler which fashions its nest of nothing but the grey usnea lichen. The cedar duck of our northern tundra plucks the softest down from her breast to line a hidden depression in the ground in which both eggs and young are warmed.

In Arizona we found the mouse-like nest of the cactus wren hidden in the prickly cholla safe from the rodents and reptiles of the desert. The floating nest of the pied-billed grebe is concealed in the tall reeds at the water's edge. The brown creeper hides his small structure of plant materials lined with feathers, behind a loosened section of the bark of a balsam fir tree.

THE GOLDFINCH builds late so that it may use the soft down of the thistle bloom to make its well-anchored cup-like nest. Perhaps the humming bird makes the neatest of all structures—a tiny cup of plant down decorated with

gray-green lichen scales cemented there with the silk of spider's webs. The whole, no larger than a teaspoon, mimics a knot on a tree branch.

A bird can be isolated at birth and brought up in the strictest captivity, yet when released it is unerring in its skill to copy the particular nest-pattern of its kind.

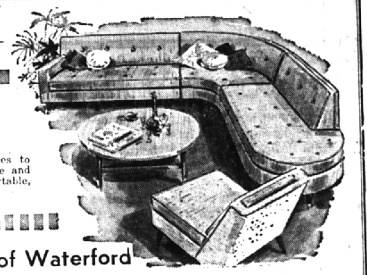
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Plan Open House At City, Country School, May 22

The staff of City and Country School for Gifted Children, Bloomfield Hills, is planning an open house for the public Sunday, May 22 from 2 to 5 p.m. It will be a family affair with supervised recreation planned for children.

The purpose is to acquaint the public with the school's gifted child educational program, the long range building program and to promote interest in the scholarship program. George Roeper, director, will report on what the school has learned through four years of research and study, in the development of the program for the education of the gifted child in an area.

LEGAL NOTICE

Oliver H. Kirk, Attorney, Wabash Bldg., Birmingham, Mich. 45201

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a hearing held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in and for the County of Oakland, Michigan, on the 21st day of April, A. D. 1960.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

William J. McKinney, Decedent.

It is further Ordered, that the petition praying that an instrument filed in and for the County of Pontiac, Michigan, on the 1st day of February, 1960, and a testament of said decedent, be admitted to probate, and that said testament be admitted to probate, and that the same be granted to Oliver H. Kirk, the petitioner named in said petition, or to some other suitable person and for the destruction of the original hereof, be and the same be so granted, that the 21st day of May, A. D. 1960, at 9 o'clock, in the forenoon, at said City of Pontiac, Michigan, be and the same be so appointed, by the Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

It is further Ordered, that a copy of this order, together with a copy hereof, one each week for consecutive weeks, previous and including the last week of said month of said estate be granted to Oliver H. Kirk, the petitioner named in said petition, or to some other suitable person and for the destruction of the original hereof, be and the same be so granted, that the 21st day of May, A. D. 1960, at 9 o'clock, in the forenoon, at said City of Pontiac, Michigan, be and the same be so appointed, by the Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

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ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate, 9, 10, 11



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