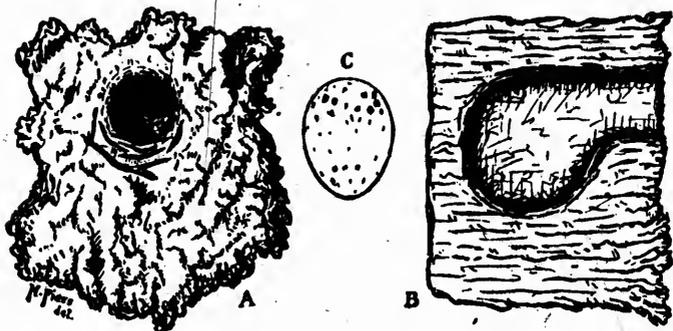


The nest was a cavity in the long moss (*Sphagnum acutifolium?*) covering the perpendicular face of a granite boulder.\* The latter was embedded in the sloping bank of the lake, the water of which came within a yard or two of its site. The vicinity was wooded. On examination, I found that the whole of the moss containing the nest was kept *constantly saturated*



NEST AND EGG OF WINTER WREN.

A. Moss containing nest, detached from surrounding portion; 1-4 nat. size.—B. Section of A; 1-4 nat. size.—C. Egg; nat. size.

with water which came from the bank above and flowed over the top of the stone, thence passing through the moss, from which it dripped at the base. The little cavity was therefore surrounded by a wet mass which must have kept the eggs at a very low temperature. How the bird could maintain sufficient warmth to hatch them, is a mystery to me, especially as she seemed to be of a gadding disposition.

This damp condition of the nest I consider a peculiar circumstance. The Wrens, however, are noted for their eccentric ideas as to the proper situation for a nest. The European species (*T. vulgaris*), which is closely related to the Winter Wren, and which in fact was confounded with it by some early writers, has been known to build in such a curious place as the body of a hawk which had been killed and nailed to the side of a barn, and likewise in the throat of a dead calf, in the interior of a pump,

\* The nest was about a foot from the ground at the base of the stone.