

dishes, so with the birds, they are far more likely to be attracted by a clump of our red native cedars than by trees which they have never seen before. Of course this does not mean to say that we should not plant trees such as the Mulberry, whose fruit is specially attractive, but as a rule our native berry bushes, vines and trees are the best to plant.

Perhaps the most interesting of our bird guests during the nesting season are those which occupy our bird houses. These are so well known that I need not enumerate them. It might be well to dwell for a little on the most suitable styles and locations of some of the preference for what he, or perhaps I had better say she, considers a properly made house. How do we know whether a bird likes a certain style of house or not? This is only found out by observation and experiment. Perhaps Baron Von Berlepsch has achieved more along this line than any other student, having devoted a tremendous amount of time and practically the whole of his large estate to these studies, and bird houses constructed after his ideas have proved most successful. I mention this only to show that through experimenting it is quite possible to find out what kind of house are preferred by the different birds.

A standard Flicker house would be made from a log say, twenty-four inches long and about eight or nine inches in diameter. The entrance hole, two and a half inches in diameter, should be placed quite near the top. To hollow out the log it is best to cut it in half lengthwise and then with a gouge or chisel shape out the cavity into a pear shaped hollow extending sixteen inches below the entrance hole making half the cavity in each piece of the log and the big end towards the bottom. Place the pieces together again and fasten tightly with a piece of soft wire at either ends of the log; then cut the top of the log sloping, with the back about one inch higher than the front; then nail a piece of board to this having it extend fully three inches beyond the log on both sides and front thus forming a shelter to the entrance hole which is quite important.

Those who are interested in finding out about any special house will find complete directions for all houses in N. M. Ladd's "How to Make Friends with the Birds."

It is a good idea to place a mixture of sand and sawdust in all Woodpeckers' houses as they do not carry in nesting material. Fill the house about one third full, they will soon remove any surplus.

Don't make the mistake of making two compartments in the one house, as houses of this sort will seldom be occupied, and if occupied only one compartment will be used. Purple Martin houses are an exception to this rule. With these houses the more rooms or apartments, each with a separate en-

trance, the better your house.

The placing of bird houses is very important. Care should be taken in selecting suitable locations which should be in open places as far as possible. When hanging the house see that the entrance faces the sheltered aspect, and that it is shaded from wet and storm as much as possible.

All houses should be cleaned and repaired as early as possible each season.

Don't make the mistake of placing a Flicker and Wren house on the same tree as if these should both be lucky in attracting occupants the Wren will take the first opportunity of visiting the Flicker's nest in the absence of the owner and puncturing the eggs. This happened in my garden last season, not only in the Flicker's nest but also with a Robin's nest which was built in the same tree.

Hang out wadding, wool, bits of string, and any other nesting material. Do this early as it is often the means of attracting a pair of birds to nest in your garden.

A bird bath is a splendid attraction. This should be placed in the open thus affording the birds a clear view of any approaching enemies, such as the skulking cat. A bath with a graded bottom is preferable. This should start at half inch and slope gently to not deeper than two inches. A fine misty spray is a splendid addition, also have perching accommodation nearby. A dust bath located in a sunny situation is much enjoyed by birds. This can be easily made by filling a flat tray or box say two or three inches deep with any sort of fine dust, preferably fine sand, with a small portion of slacked lime thoroughly mixed. A bath which will be much frequented especially by Robins and Sparrows can easily be made by securing a large plant saucer and placing it in a sunny location on a box or stool to raise it one or two feet from the ground, the only difficulty with this is that you will probably find that you will have to fill it several times during the day, as an enthusiastic Robin will splash considerable of the water over the edge and when this is repeated several times the bath soon becomes empty.

Besides serving as baths these basins of water are a great blessing in hot weather, as drinking pools, and if kept regularly filled will be visited by hundreds of birds during one day.

There is one golden rule to be observed if we are to make the birds feel perfectly at home in our gardens, that is that no cat or dog be allowed to roam about the premises. The proprietor must see that this is obeyed. Our movements have considerable effect on wild life. If we are gentle and even in our ways of going about the garden, and are not always appearing to be prying after the birds we will find that they will soon learn to treat us as friends. There is no better illustration of this than