

Lesson 8

A NEST IN A TREE TRUNK

1. NESTING HABITS.

(a) Observations to be made by pupils.

- Where are the woodpeckers' nests found?
- What is the shape of the opening?
- At what season is the nest built?
- Are the trees living or dead?
- What kind of trees are used?
- At what height in the tree is the opening made?
- Do both sexes take part in the excavation?
- How long are they in excavating?
- Do they bring straw, hair or leaves with which to line it?
- What is done with the chips removed from the excavation?
- What is the shape of the excavation?
- Is it dug straight down the tree?
- Is it wider at the top or the bottom?
- Are the walls smooth?
- What do the eggs rest on?
- What is the color of the eggs?
- What use is this color?
- How many eggs are laid?
- How long does it take the eggs to hatch?
- Do both parents take part in incubation?
- How are the young fed?

Note.—In the autumn have a pupil cut off the piece of the trunk of a tree containing the nest. Have the top cut just above the opening and it is better to make the second cut two feet below this. Then cut out a slab about six inches wide and half through the trunk just above the nest so that the bottom of the latter can be seen through it. This makes an excellent specimen for the museum and the whole structure of the nest can be seen at a glance.