

garded as one of the most profound philosophers of ancient times, wrote the very first methodical treatise on zoology ; Pliny, who lived at the beginning of the first century, was a devoted student of ornithology. In more recent times we find men of genius and intellect absorbed in this beautiful study. Francis Bacon, the philosopher, Count Buffon the distinguished naturalist, and Linnæus, whose vast and soaring intellect led him to take the most exalted views of nature, were deeply interested in this attractive study. Nor should the names of Audubon, Wilson, Swainson, or Prince Charles Buonaparte, be omitted from the list of eminent men who have delighted in the study of this interesting department of natural science.

The fauna of Canada is both beautiful and varied in its features ; our birds especially are extremely interesting, and in beauty of plumage and sweetness of song equal, if they do not surpass the birds of any other country. If our young people, of both sexes, could be induced to occupy their leisure in the delightful study of Ornithology, they would most assuredly derive greater pleasure and satisfaction than in wasting their time over the trashy sentimental literature of the present day.

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### BIRDS' NEST ARCHITECTURE.

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BIRDS are endowed with a more than common share of affection for their young, which they evince by the care and sagacity they manifest in their choice of a nesting place ; the assiduity with which they provide for their wants, and the courageous defence they make when danger threatens their helpless brood.

The architectural skill and executive capacity displayed by many birds in the construction of their nests, as well as the instinct in selecting a locality which affords protection for their young, and convenience for obtaining the requisite food, must be deeply interesting to every reflecting mind.

The style of birds' nest architecture is as various as the materials used in construction. The birds of prey, confident in their power