

infested with them at times, especially when there are several together. The reason why swallows are so much attacked is probably due to their habit of returning to the same breeding place for several years in succession, and thereby making much more profitable hosts for the bugs than birds that change their nesting abode each season. It is also interesting to recollect that the nesting period of swallows only covers, at most, three months, so that the bugs are obliged to fast for nine months of the year. Most of this time, however, is spent in hibernation.

NESTING OF THE AMERICAN OSPREY.

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The heavy dense woods of tamarack, black spruce and balsam, with poplars and birches scattered here and there, which skirt the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, are an excellent breeding ground for the American Osprey. From May 28th to June 15th of the present year twenty nests of this bird were located in an area of timber extending some twelve miles along the coast. The nearest nest from the shore was about one mile inland; then they appear to extend horizontally half a mile apart, placed on the very top of all sorts of trees, generally dead ones. In one instance two or three nests were but two hundred yards apart.

It is easy to find these huge nests of the Osprey, as they can be seen some eight hundred yards away with the sitting bird moving her head in all directions looking for possible enemies. As soon as you are detected—and you can count on the fish hawk seeing you half a mile away—the bird slowly rises off her nest and comes up to meet you, making all the time a whistling note and performing certain revolutions characteristic of the species. As you approach the nest it is more difficult for one to locate it, as these evergreen woods are very heavy and the underbrush equally so. However, the bird is overhead and practically leads one to the nest. Some of the nests are situated in small clearings and are, therefore, more easily found. As stated, it is easy to locate the nests, but it is quite another matter to procure the eggs. The largest nest examined was between five and six feet across and about two feet deep—built largely of sticks and lined with seaweed and grasses. The others were not quite so bulky, averaging about four to five feet. The only way to get into these nests is to hug the tree with one arm and work an avenue or lane over the side of the nest with the other hand. This is an extreme-