

SOME CURIOUS BIRDS' NESTS.

The nest of the tailor-bird is one of the most interesting objects in the whole realm of nature. It is usually built at the end of a very slender twig. If one leaf is sufficiently large, the edges are drawn together so as to form a pouch; but if one leaf is not large enough for this purpose, another one is stitched on to it. In constructing its nest, the bird

how to avoid its enemy, by placing its nest at the very end of a fine twig, along which the snake is unable to creep.

Another curious nest is that of the African weaver-bird. These nests are always suspended from the twigs of trees overhanging water. Each nest consists of a hollow globe at the top, which is approached by a tube about



THE TAILOR BIRD AND ITS NEST.

uses its beak and feet to bore the holes through the edges of the leaf, and to pass the thread-like fibres through them. This it accomplishes with the dexterity of a tailor. The inside of the nest is then carefully lined with soft down and feathers. The greatest enemy of this clever little tailor-bird is the tree-snake, which infests the forests of India. But instinct teaches the bird

twelve or fifteen inches in length, made of the same material as the nest, which is usually formed of dry grasses beautifully interwoven into a compact and strong case. One end of the tube opens into the hollow globe which forms the nest proper; the other goes down to within two or three inches of the water, allowing just sufficient room to admit the bird upon its return to its nest.