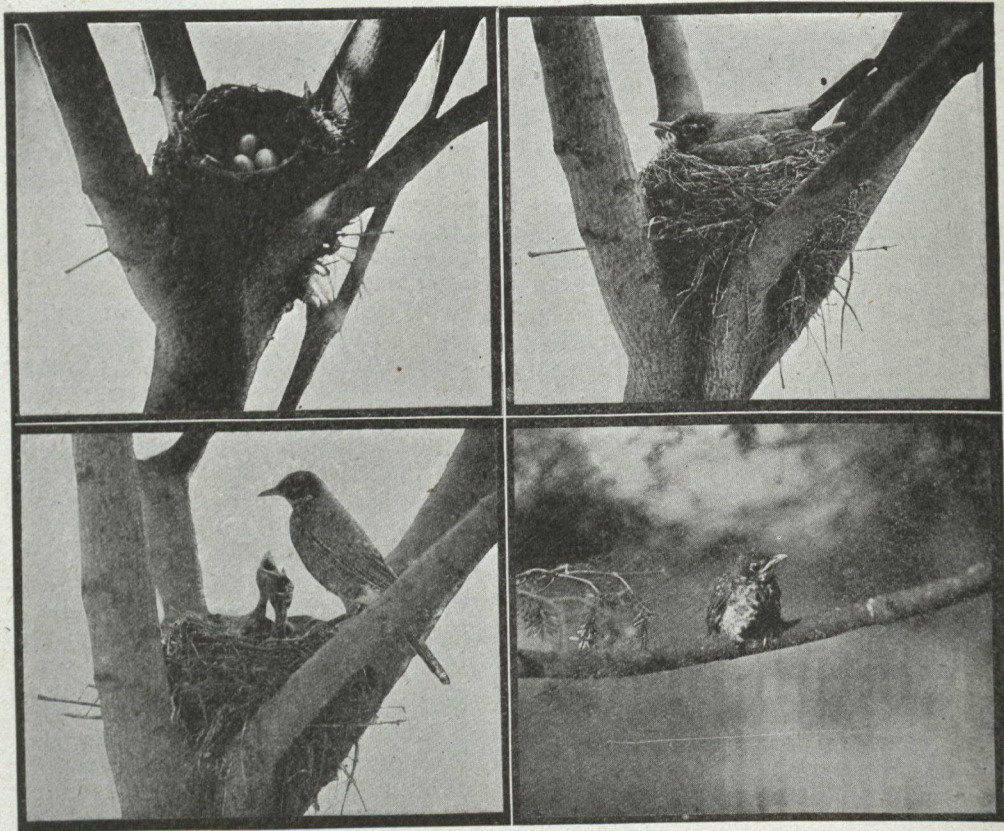


# Helping The Robins to Nest

BY WINTHROP PACKARD



Courtesy "Our Dumb Animals."

In a *Bird-Lore* census, taken not long ago, it was estimated that the robin was the most numerous American bird, the house sparrow coming next. The robin, in one form or another, nests practically all over the continent of North America and the bird is one of the most friendly that we have. The poet Wordsworth once referred to the English robin as

"Honest Robin, who loves mankind both alive and dead," and the words might apply equally to the American robin, for the bird loves to nest not only in our gardens but in our cemeteries and upon our very houses.

Often a robin will select a corner of the porch, a nook under the eaves, or even go inside of the building itself. Recently one is reported to have flown in at the open window of a church during service and to have begun to build his nest on a cornice just over the pulpit. The window was left partly open from that time on and the family of young robins was successfully reared in this admirable sanctuary.

The nesting robins may be assisted by providing nesting sites; a shelf up under the eaves will often tempt them or a sheltered platform set on the limb of a tree. If there