## [1903. W. T. MACOUN-THE NESTING OF BIRDS.

and it is difficult to tell how many broods are raised in a season. The nests are built in holes, corners and cracks in the buildings.

There are probably more nests of the vesper sparrow on the Farm in one season than any other species not even excepting the house sparrow. Many nests are found every year, and many nests must be destroyed by the plough and other farm implements. The nest is built on the ground and usually has some partial protection in the form of growing grass or weeds Although no nests of the Savanna sparrow have been found to our knowledge this bird must breed on the Farm, as it is seen there during the summer. The white-throated sparrow's nest has not been found either, but this bird probably builds in the natural woods on the Farm.

There are none of the small birds which are more associated with the home than the chipping sparrow. This little fellow seems to delight in building his nest near the house and will, if possible, choose a shrub or tree almost if not quite against a building. The nest never seems to be firmly fixed to the branch on which it is resting, and there are probably more capsized chippy's nests after a rain or wind storm than any other species.

The slate-coloured junco may breed on the Farm but a nest has not been found.

The song sparrow is quite common but the nest is not as easily found as either the vesper or chipping sparrow. The nest of the vesper sparrow it found by the bird rising almost under one's feet, while the nest of the chipping sparrow is very easily seen in the shrub or tree where it builds. The song sparrow usually builds its nest in dense shrubs or on the ground, but not often in an open position, and hence it is more difficult to find, though the nests are quite common.

The swamp sparrow's nest has not been found, but it probably breeds in the swamp and marsh near St. Louis dam and the canal.

In 1895 a dicksissel spent the summer at the Farm and probably a pair were breeding in the meadow where the male bird was seen constantly for some days. This was the first and last record of this bird as it does not as a rule come to Eastern Ontario,

29