

NATURE STUDY OF ANIMALS.

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Bird Study.

The following topics or suggestions for the study of birds follow closely the arrangement and questions given in Mrs. Comstock's "Bird Notes." If you are not using "Bird Notes," arrange the suggestions in a note book, and answer them in the field, while the bird is under observation. Give short answers to all questions, similar to those following first question under A. Do not trust entirely to your memory to carry away a true picture of the bird, but whenever possible make a chart, and mark in

11. Note color and shape of its bill.
12. Is the tail forked, notched, square or rounded?

B. Topics for additional study of birds,—

1. Migrations.
2. Nests and bird-houses.
3. Song and calls.
4. Color.
5. Food.
6. Relation of birds to man.

Migration is the most distinctive phase of bird life, and in a discussion of this subject we may, for convenience, group our birds as follows:

1. Permanent residents,—species that are



Fig. 1.—THE KINGBIRD,
a noted insect eater.

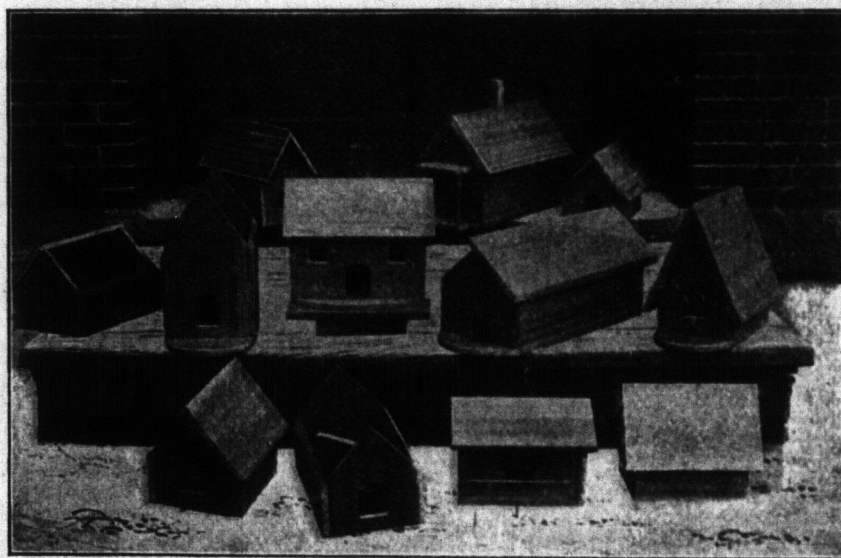


Fig. 2.— BIRD HOUSES.

the colors and peculiarities of form. One seldom sees accurately till he begins to record carefully.

A. Suggestions for identification study of birds.—

1. Where is the bird seen? Woods, border of woods, bushes, open fields, trees or bushes along fences, roadsides, border of stream, marsh, pond or lake, garden, orchard, about buildings.
2. Compare its size with that of the crow, the robin, or the English sparrow.
3. What are its most striking colors?
4. Does it show flash colors when flying? If so, where and what color?
5. In action is it slow and quiet or active and nervous?
6. Does it occur alone or in a flock?
7. What is its manner of flying?
8. Describe its song and call-note?
9. Where does it sit when singing?
10. Does it sing when flying?

represented in a given locality throughout the year.

2. Summer residents,—species that come to us from farther south in the spring, rear their young and return south in the fall.

3. Winter residents,—species that come to us in the fall and remain till spring.

4. Transient visitors,—species that nest farther north and winter south of us, and consequently pass through our country when migrating in spring and fall.

Every effort should be made throughout the year to become acquainted with our "permanent residents." Transient visitors and summer residents claim special attention during the months of April and May.

Keep records of returning birds, when first seen, and when seen in numbers. All school grades are interested in the bird-calendar. But migration is too large a subject to stop here. The question naturally arises: "Where do our mig-