

With the possible exception of the house wren, probably no other birds so readily take advantage of artificial nesting places as the Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus* and others) and Tits. Their unremitting search for insects on every branch, twig and leaf is a fascinating sight and the good they accomplish is difficult to conceive. A Blue Tit will destroy six and a half million insects in a year, and in bringing up a family of about twelve to sixteen young ones, about twenty-four million insects would ultimately be accounted for. Especially valuable are they in the destruction of the eggs of certain species of defoliating caterpillars, such as the canker worms and tent caterpillars, the moths of which deposit their eggs on twigs. Graf, in Switzerland, states that three blue-tits and three coal-tits consumed 8000 to 9000 insect eggs daily; three marsh tits, one coal-tit, a long-tailed tit and a golden crested wren consumed 600 caterpillars in 100 minutes. The pupae of the codling moth and the hibernating forms of plant lice do not escape the sharp eye of these small acrobats. The little White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) which may be seen running not only upwards but also downwards on the trunks of trees, has somewhat similar habits to the Chickadees. Over 50 per cent. of its food consists of insects. The House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) has suffered much by the inroads of the quarrelsome English sparrow which drives it out of its nesting places on every possible occasion. Nevertheless, this confiding little bird which charms us so much with its little bubbling song and exacts such a heavy toll on insect life will gladly accept a nesting box out of which the sparrows may be kept by hanging it rather low down, and having the entrance hole as small as possible.

The Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) formerly nested in hollow trees, but the advent of man encouraged it to nest about his domicile. In some parts of the country, I have noticed the fact particularly in certain sections of New Brunswick, one may see martin houses erected on poles and this form of encouragement is very successful, although the English sparrows are a constant source of trouble to the rightful owners. The value of the martins and swallows around the house and buildings as insect destroyers is appreciated by all who have encouraged them. The Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*), which nests in hollow trees, is not so abundant in certain sections of Ontario as formerly. Reporting the success of nesting boxes during 1913, Mr. W. E. Saunders, of London, Ont., writes: "Another lot of boxes which were put in place on an island in the Rideau Lakes were a source of actual competition among the tree swallows, there being more pairs than there were nests, and considering the fact that these