

small door keeps out such birds as the English sparrow, etc.

It is also quite common in many sections to find barns with a narrow strip of board-nailed under the eaves to aid in supporting the mud-built house of the eave swallow. Try it this year on a barn facing east and west, and note the results. These birds literally sweep the air, devouring insects by the thousands. Are they of benefit to the farm?

Many other birds also appreciate houses. The robin seems to prefer a shelf-like house, a piece of board with raised edges, or a shallow box about six inches square, with sides not over two inches, fastened several feet from the ground in sheltered places against buildings, or among trees. Some bird students tell me that they even place straw in these houses, and that it seems to serve as a special attraction. Several such houses can be made in a few minutes and should be in position as early as possible.

Place on your lawn a "mud pan," a shallow pan filled with mud and water, and note what birds use this mixture. Examine old nests to find its use. Wool, cotton, feathers, and other materials are used when available.

Houses for the downy woodpecker are made by taking a section about sixteen inches long from the trunk of a tree about eight inches in diameter, and digging out a hole from one end about nine inches deep, with the diameter, for over a third of its depth, in the mouth region, of about five inches. Fit a board over this, hollowing it out to correspond with the width of the hole at the mouth. Now set the house upright, the board end being the bottom, and in the side, eight inches from the bottom, bore a hole for a door, one and four-fifth inches in diameter. Make the interior fairly smooth, free from splinters, nail the bottom in place, and fasten the house door end uppermost to a post or tree, with door facing the east, and that side inclined about four degrees towards the ground, to prevent rain from running in. This is a good imitation of the famous German Berlepsch bird house, and I have known downy Woodpeckers to seem very happy in such quarters. A smaller house made in the same way, with the door about an inch and a quarter in diameter serves equally well for the chickadee. They like such homes.

I believe much could be done to attract the flicker. They are frequently found nesting in quite unexpected places. Given proper tree conditions I have known them to build in towns, in trees within ten feet of the side walk, and they seemed to have little fear of man after they once found that he was merely a "curious" animal.

"Mr. Ernest Thompson Seton has constructed in his place in Connecticut a huge artificial stump, filled with imitation woodpecker holes," and has succeeded in attracting numbers of different kinds of birds.

In constructing a flicker house, follow the general directions for the woodpecker house, only make it larger. The door should be about two and a half inches in diameter.

Many other species, as song sparrows, chipping sparrows, cat-birds, King birds, redstarts, etc., etc., that join your colony will prefer to keep their nests out of prepared houses. The English redstart, however, has been known to build in a house similar to that described for the robin, with walls about four inches high on three sides, with a low front, and provided with a flat roof. It might prove interesting to provide such houses for our native redstart.

Here is a hint; why not get busy preparing bird attractions for your school grounds, and make their erection a part of the arbor day exercises? The planting of trees, shrubbery, flowers, etc., are right in this line of work, and the erection of feeding boards, baths, and houses are a natural sequence, and quite in keeping with the spirit of the day. Try it; it is worth while, it will pay!

Space prevents the publication of data on the return of the migrants for April, but they will appear in the June issue along with the data for May. Let me urge again to have data for May sent in by the 25th. If you mail by that date there will be ample time to prepare copy for the June issue. This is the great month for birds, but make it even greater for your bird study.

When boys and girls salute the flag, they do not merely express their pride that it is a flag honored over the world. They ought to remember that the flag represents the country to which they owe duties in every hour of their lives. All the time they are receiving blessings from that country, and all the time they have duties to that country. — EDWARD EVERETT HALE.