

forth sweet melody. Birds differ widely in choice of places for their nests. The Horned Lark is satisfied with a shallow hollow in a meadow; while the Baltimore Oriole, trim of figure and bright of color, suspends its bag-like home from the end of some drooping bough, very frequently overhanging a stream (Fig. 64). The Bluebird prefers a hollow post or



Fig. 64. The Oriole's Nest.

fence-rail; the Bank Swallow, a home made in a sand bank; and the Blue Heron, or Crane, as it is erroneously called, selects the lofty top of a tamarack or black ash wherein to build his home of sticks.

Watch carefully during the summer, and make a list of the birds which build their nests: *1st*, on the ground; *2nd*, in shrubs or trees not more than 15 feet from the ground; *3rd*, in trees at a greater distance than 15 feet from the ground; *4th*, in other places, as sand banks, eaves of buildings, chimneys, etc.



Fig. 66. Woodpeckers at work.

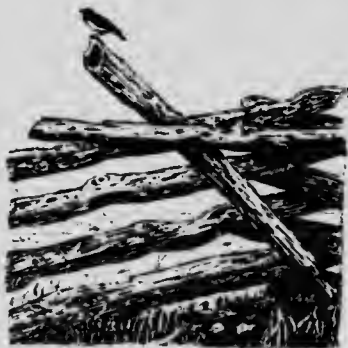


Fig. 65. The Bluebird's Nest.

MAN AND BIRDS. From an economical, as well as an aesthetical, standpoint, man should always be found offering protection to birds. This statement is made with full knowledge of the fact that there are a few members of this class of animals which are of little service to us, and are not distinguished for their beauty. Nevertheless, the fact remains that, as a class, we should offer them every protection, cultivate their acquaintance, and encourage them to build nests and remain with us. It is very doubtful, indeed, if there is a single species of bird for the total destruction of which we would be better off. Those who dispute this point have never made a careful study of the feeding habits of birds. Many unthinking persons condemn Woodpeckers, which are seen flying to and fro in the orchard, because it is