

THE SECRET

We have a secret, just we three,
The robin, and I, and the sweet cherry tree;
The bird told the tree, and the tree told me,
And nobody knows it but just we three.

But of course the robin knows it best,
Because he built it—I shan't tell the rest;
And laid the four little—something in it—
I'm afraid I shall tell it every minute.

But if the tree and the robin don't peep,
I'll try my best the secret to keep;
Though I know when the little birds fly about,
Then the whole secret will be out.

—Anon.

Lesson 4

OUR MOST FAMILIAR BIRD'S NEST—THE ROBIN'S

1. NESTING HABITS.

(a) Observations to be made by pupils.

At what date is the robin's nest built?

Find all the different kinds of locations for nests.

What is the greatest height at which you find a nest and
also the lowest?

Do they commonly build in the woods?

Do they always build near houses?

Examine an old nest and notice the material of which it
is made.

Try to find a bird constructing a nest and observe how the
straws are brought.

How does the bird construct the nest?

How is the mud carried?

Do both parents help in the construction?

How many eggs are usually laid?