

schemes whereby he hopes to grow fat and to render the farmer helpless to prevent his devastations of the fruit trees and corn fields. Then follows the Robin, whistling and strutting around with renewed vigor and grace. Then follow in rapid succession, Blue-birds, Song-sparrows, Black-birds, Phœbes, and a host of others, until the air is filled with music. Every tree, shrub, and meadow has its full orchestra.



Fig. 62. Taking Notes.

Every boy and girl should keep a record of the dates when the first of every kind of bird is seen each season. It will add greatly to the pleasure of spring-time.

NESTING HABITS. Of all the evil traits which have been handed down to man, none is worse than the predisposition of the bad "small boy" to rob birds' nests. How much nicer it would make the home, if instead of driving the birds away in disgust, the boys would all fix up some nesting

boxes in the old orchard, and upon the roof of the wood-shed. These need not be large nor expensive, and yet you will be astonished how soon the birds will use them as homes. Let every boy vie with his fellows to have the greatest number of birds summer around his home.

Here is a suggestion for you.

Nail up some nesting boxes near your home, near by place some bits of string and hair that the birds may use in building nests. Then, if there is no water close by, set up on a post a tin dish that will catch the rain, and you can from time to time fill it with fresh water. This drinking place will attract the birds. Now keep track of the birds that come around, and, if you do not frighten them away, you will soon have some birds coming regularly to make their home with you. These new friends will be interesting, and you will be much happier in watching them coming and going through the summer than in frightening them away.



Fig. 63. Happy Homes.

Many of the birds are paired before they reach us in the spring, and soon they are busy making snug little homes in some secure and sheltered spot. The little workers labor industriously, all the while giving