

These should be made to last so that the same birds may return to them each Spring. The floor should give plenty of room for the nest, joints should be tight in order to prevent draughts or the entrance of rain, entrance holes should be countersunk or slope upwards so that wet may not enter; there should be a small hole through the floor of the house to drain off any water which may enter, entrance holes should be quite small so that as far as possible sparrows may be prevented from taking possession. Painted boxes are not advised, but if paint is used it should be of a dull colour. The more rustic looking the box the more it will attract the birds. As birds return to the same hole in a tree year after year, from which they will remove portions of the nest, and as in Canada the cold of winter destroys most insect pests found in nests, cleaning is not so necessary as elsewhere. Clean boxes, however, will doubtless be preferred, and sides or tops may be hinged or made movable so that this may be done. If the box tips forward a little this will help to keep out rain, and it should never lean backward. The roof should slant and should overhang enough to keep rain clear, and also keep the sun from shining on the young. As the roof is liable to warp it is a good plan to have one or more cross pieces of wood strongly nailed to prevent this. If nesting boxes are placed on poles instead of on trees a metal guard can be attached lower down to prevent cats from climbing

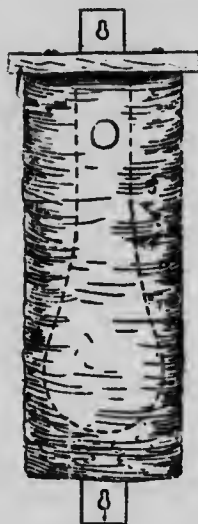


Fig. 1.

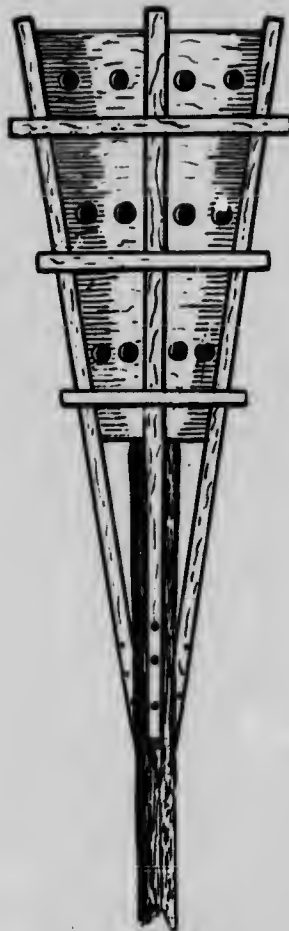


FIG. 3.