

Lesson 2.

The Crow—

His Nest and His Winter Home

1. NESTING HABITS.

(a) Observations to be made by pupils.

At what season are you able to find the nests?

Where is the nest usually built?

How high from the ground is it?

In the autumn get a nest and bring it to school and describe its structure.

Describe the number and color of the eggs.

How long does incubation last?

Try to find out the food of the young.

Is the same nest used more than once?

(b) To the teacher.

The crows begin to construct their nests in April or May. The nest is a large but well constructed home. It looks a little rough exteriorly but forms a quite comfortable abode for young crows. The main structure is of interwoven sticks, but the interior is lined with the soft bark of the grape vine, grass and moss. It is found well up in a tree, usually located in a woods, but never in the deep forest. Most boys know that it is not easy to approach from below. Both parents help in the tedious work of incubation. Four to six ovate eggs are laid. These eggs are usually bluish green, marked with shades of brown, but the colors vary to a great extent. After eighteen days hatching, four blind and naked crow babies make their appearance, but in three weeks of steady eating, the well feathered fledglings, with eyes wide open, are ready to leave the nest. Like most young birds, a meat diet is largely used; insects, alternating with frogs and mice, make a very good variety for a crow. The wise old crow shows her wisdom by utilizing the same nest for several seasons. There is no divorce in the kingdom of crowdom for when they are mated it lasts for life.