

walks in the country, he will usually see not more than 1 or 2 in a morning and often none. Under these conditions, nests are seldom found, and in all the years I have studied birds I have found but 3, one of which was never completed. This first was found near Ottawa on July 7th, 1890, and was seen under exceptionally favorable circumstances. My brother and I spent quite a long time watching the tiny builder. The nest had not yet begun to show cupping, and she was very busy; her absences were short and her visits frequent; 20 or 30 seconds was often sufficient for her to get a load, and she took only from 10 to 30 seconds, usually 20, to finish working it in. The universal testimony seems to be that, while the female is useful, the male is merely ornamental, and takes no part whatever in the work; that was certainly the fact in this instance. When we took this nest, we wound cotton carefully around it and then cut off the limb, and thus succeeded in safely collecting the whole. The only other nest I have taken was at Port Stanley, on June 2nd, 1893. It was placed on a dead twig of a wild cherry tree and was certainly difficult to secure, but by following the same tactics as before, winding it with cotton and sawing off the limb, I secured it safely.

These little birds have very dainty habits, and one can spend no hours more pleasantly than in watching them. I was once favoured by being allowed to view the morning toilet of a Hummer in my garden. There had been a heavy dew, and the little fellow bathed in the moisture-laden leaves of the grape and raspberry, fluttering his wings and shaking his body and feathers, just as larger birds do in larger vessels. It seemed like a burlesque, and one could hardly help the idea that this little mite "thought he was a bird."

On another occasion I saw one drink the juice of a cherry that the robins had broken.

While one notices these tiny creatures only while they are on the wing, he will discover by watching them that their rests are frequent and long, but their wee, faint "chirp" is seldom uttered except while on the wing. During the longer rests, generally made on a dead or bare twig, or a wire, the bird will often plume itself for many minutes at a time and shows in many ways its neatness and cleanliness.