THE TITMOUSE FAMILY.

A small bird, with a grayishwhite head, black wings, and a dull brown coat, a soft puffy little creature, may be found at all seasons hopping merrily about in the hedge-rows and orchards of England and France.

It is known as the long-tailed titmouse, and is one of the most remarkable members of the great other oily seeds. titmouse samily, which numbers more than eighty-seven varieties tomtits, and consider them the lowed to fly about will quickly the entire year, and is always the

Its nest is a wonderful specimen of bird-architecture. The little birds work industriously, and at the end of fifteen days the beautiful home is finished and ready to receive the small speckled eggs. The nest is fastened to twigs covered with thick foliage, and a location near a small water-course is usually selected in It is shaped like a large egg. The little round door is at one side near the top, and some nests have been found with a similar opening on the other side, lower down. As the birds cannot speak and explain this freak in the construction of their house, the reason has never been found out. Some naturalists think it is for better ventilation.

To weave its nest the bird collects bits of wood, soft moss, and the strong silken winding of certain cocoons, which it twists together in thick impenetrable walls within which its little ones may lie secure from rain and storm and cold. The exterior of the nost is artistically covered with beautiful lichens and bits of soft bark, which make it in color and outward texture so much like the Tranches to which it is secured that a very sharp eye is needed to distinguish it.

When the little house is complete, it is furnished with a soft thick bed of downy feathers, and the mother begins to brood over seven or eight little rose-white eggs delicately specked with red.

near them until they are a year are few birds which possess such they will harass and worry them during the warm weather, with stincts. They will fight furiously Titmice are very useful inhabiseven or eight in each brood, a with each other for the possession tants of gardens and orchards, as whole titmouse family - papa, of a plump insect or some other they wage continual war on all mamma, and as many as sixteen dainty morsel, and—sad to relate kinds of saw-flies and other small soot from the smoke of the pit for

gleefully as they spy a swarm of and eat its brains. fat flies, or discover among old

English boys call these birds

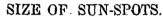
morning till night, and as they kill it with sharp blows from a breakfast for himself and his are very sociable, they go in large their strong little beaks. When numerous family. flocks, twittering and chirping it is dead, they pick open its skull

In France titmice are often stone heaps or in the bark of trees captured in snares, but unless the most familiar among them is the the hiding-places where tiny specimen is very young, it will chickadee, which may be heard worms are lying asleep in a make a savage attack on the any sunny day during our long chrysalis shroud. They will also hands of the hunter who takes it northern winter trilling its merry eat beech-nuts, acorns, hemp, and from the net. It is not difficult to tame them. They make very wise and amusing pets, and if al-| birds that remain with us during

tures, and always hunting from species, the titmice set upon it and hop and jump about in search of

In this country ten varieties of titmice have been found, and there are no doubt more. The chickadee-dee-dee in the fields and woods. It is one of the few

same lively, blythe little creature. -- Harper's Young People.



A single spot has measured from 40,000 to 50,000 miles in diameter, in which, as will be readily seen, we could put our earth for a standing point of observation, and note how the vast facular waves roll and leap about the edge of the spot, and also how the metallic rain is formed from the warmer portions of the sun. In June, 1843, a solar spot remained a week visible to the naked eye, having a diameter of about 77,-000 miles; and in 1837 a cluster of spots covered an area of nearly 4,000,-000,000 square miles. When we call to mind that the smallest spot which can be seen with the most powerful telescope must have an area of about 50,000 miles, we can readily see how large a spot must be in order to be visible to the unaided eye. Pasteroff, in 1828, measured a spot whose umbra had an extent four times greater than the earth's surface. In August, 1858, a spot was measured by Newall, and it had a diameter of 58,000 milesmore, as you will see, than seven times the diameter of the earth. The largest spot that has ever been known to astronomy was no less in diameter than 153,500 miles, so that across this you could have placed side by side eighteen worlds.-Popular

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These long-tailed titmice are most impertinent of all the feath-clear a room of flies and mosqui- Science Monthly. the most faithful of all bird-par-ered inhabitants of the country; for, toes. But they should never be ents. They keep their children small and graceful as they are, there put in a cage with other birds, for old, and as two broods are born a violent temper or such cruel in- to death. little ones—may often be seen hopping about together and scouring the hedges in search of food. They show no mercy towards a insects, which do much injury to fruit-bearing trees and shrubs, matter whether it is one of their and a wise gardener will allow Manners are the state of the same of th They are ravenous little crea-lown kind or of some other the saucy tomtit full liberty to virtues.—Sydney Smith.

Do you think of one falsity as harmless, and another as slight, and another as unintended? Cast them all aside; they may be light and accidental, but they are ugly

MANNERS are the shadows of