

favorite location of the nest is in a thick clump of spruce near a clearing. Any large area of black spruce usually contains a pair of sharp-shins. The bird is generally a close sitter and only a well aimed stick or stub will dislodge her.

There is a certain amount of individuality in this species. Some birds are very quiet after being flushed off the nest, the alarm notes even being absent, while others are very lively and noisy and will return immediately to attack. One pair would not permit packing of the eggs under the nest, but would dart to the ground and almost fly in my face. Some pairs return to the same woods year after year even after being disturbed. Others may raise their young in a woods, but it does not necessarily follow that the birds will occupy the same locality the next season. Should the first set be taken, the birds have been known to lay a second one in the same nest, or depart a short distance away and start operations afresh, but this is not the rule; the pair generally leave the woods.

The sharp-shinned hawk has two distinct alarm notes when the nest is approached, the usual cackling call in the earlier stages of the nesting season and a series of squealing notes, not unlike those of the grouse, after the young are hatched, alternating from one call to the other when the young are well grown.

En passant, it has occurred to me to point out the characteristics of a pair of hawks which I have kept under observation for a few years.

In the fall of 1912, while exploring some mixed small growth of timber encroaching on a spruce bog, I noticed seven or eight nests of the sharp-shinned hawk placed at low elevations, ten to fifteen feet in height, in black spruce saplings. These were all within a radius of fifty yards and apparently the work of one pair of birds.

On May 24, 1913, I visited this wood again and rapped all spruces containing these small nests. There were no signs of occupancy about the nests and it was quite apparent that no bird was on any of them. No hawk was seen in the neighborhood, nor was one heard, so the trees were not climbed. Four weeks later, on June 22, I passed through this group of nests and was amazed to see a sharp-shinned hawk leaving one of the identical nests I had previously pounded. In a minute I was gazing at five young sharp-shins in white down, probably only a few days old. The female flew in wide circles around the nest, but was peaceful and silent. On my first visit the bird had, no doubt, left the nest on my approach.

On May 29, 1914, Mr. L. M. Terrill and I purposely set out to gather additional information as to this secretive pair of hawks. On the way we decided not to leave anything to hazard, but to climb to all the nests and examine them carefully. The wood was quiet and no birds were in sight. My friend started to ascend one nest and pointed