

expressed in a lower and harsher key ; still it is pleasant and cheerful.

Besides all the notes so far spoken of, the Canada Sparrow has two separate notes used for calls, alarm, etc. First: "*che-ep*;" well pronounced, the most stress on the "p." Second: "*te-e*;" much like the first but shorter and not as a usual thing uttered with so loud a voice. From careful study the writer believes that he has included all of the notes of our little northern boarder who pays his board with his songs.

If once you have heard the Tree Sparrow's songs, I know you will be watching for them in the last part of next fall when no more is heard the warblings of the birds that have flown far away to the southland. Yet Nature has provided that this bird shall sing to us after she has placed an icy seal on the brook, has robbed us for a while of the flowers, the foliage, and the green grass, has covered the earth with a thick blanket of snow ; still these little birds are bright, active, and cheerful, vieing with each other in making the air respond with clear, liquid music.

THE RED-EYED VIREO.

BY WILL. N. COLTON, BIDDEFORD, ME.

The Red-eyed Vireo is a Summer resident here, and although I have seldom noticed it breeding in York County, nests of this species have been frequently found by the writer in Penobscot County in the northern part of the state.

The nest is usually rather neat and compact, still much variation is exhibited in this respect. One of the first I ever found, I remember, was so large and sprawling that I was at a loss for a time, to what species to assign the nest.

In 1887 I took a series of seven sets, the eggs varying little, in either size or markings ; the reddish-brown dots being sprinkled without uniformity or plan, sparingly on the larger end. This is unlike the eggs of its fellow breeder,

the American Redstart ; the markings on the eggs of the latter being wreathed.

The site I found to be invariably a bush, usually elder ; preference being given to a sharp, upright crotch, which gives the nest a peculiar "squeezed" shape. Most of my nests were found while walking along secluded lanes or old cart paths.

The nest is constructed of grass and vegetable fibers ; on the outside, bits of leaves and bark.

This Vireo has many curious and interesting traits, and a careful study of its habits will be well repaid. Its song is not the least of its charms ; a sweet, though simple strain, suggesting brightness and joy on the part of the performer, and good will to all around.

HOW TO PREPARE EGGS FOR THE CABINET.

We give the method of blowing and preparing eggs for the cabinet from a letter recently received from one of the veteran collectors of the seventies.

We give only the extracts from his letter which relate directly to the instruments used and methods of use, together with his directions for constructing the same.

We have personally witnessed the use of them and they are certainly a decided improvement over the old method of blowing with the mouth.

He says, "I prefer glass blowpipes. I buy the glass tubing at a drug-store and use a spirit-lamp with a $\frac{3}{8}$ inch round wick and draw them out with points suitable for large, medium, or very small eggs. My experience with eggs that have been partially incubated is that holding the blowpipe outside of the drill hole, while blowing, is a good deal like feeling on the outside of a barn to tell how much grain it contains.

"The easiest and quickest way to blow eggs is with a blowpipe attached to a rubber bulb, having a valve in the opposite end. I think any one would appreciate a hand