

A Double Nest of the Baltimore Oriole.—At Eureka, Woodford County, Illinois, during the winter of 1911, I found a strange double nest of the Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) in a tree in our front yard. At least one of the nests had been occupied by a pair of birds during the preceding summer, but my bird

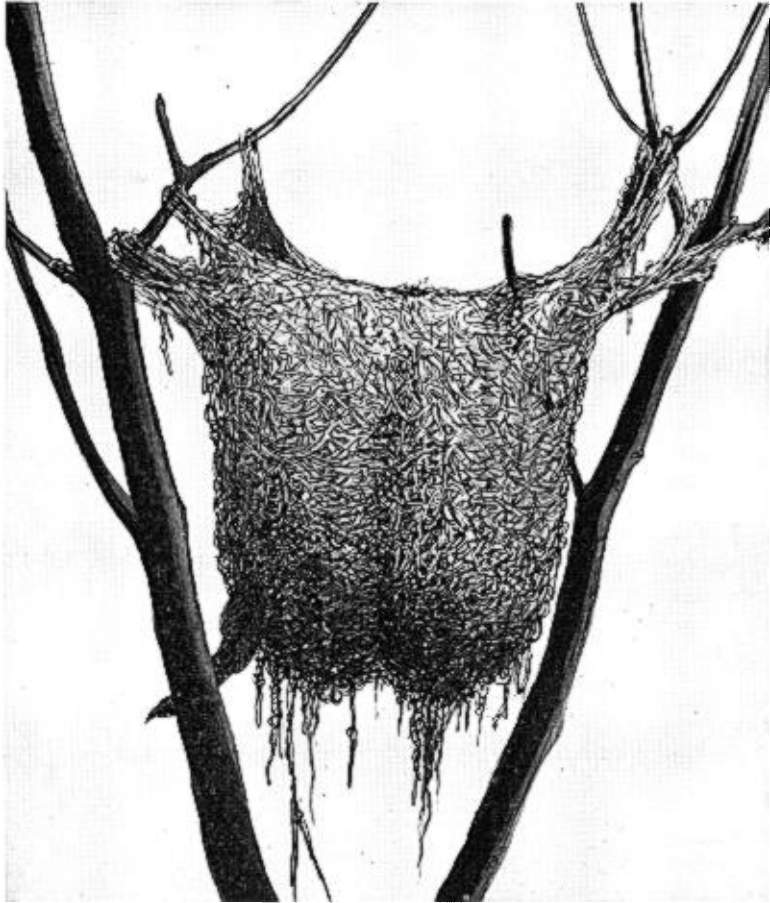


FIG. 3. Nest of the Baltimore Oriole referred to in Mr. Sutton's note. From a drawing by George Miksch Sutton.

notes were not kept very accurately in those days, and it is barely possible that two pairs of birds were there. During the summer I did not climb to the nests, since I did not know in which tree the birds had built; but in early winter I was attracted by a bulky mass, which at a distance had the appearance of a gray, weatherbeaten piece of cloth.

Both nests were neatly finished; they were inextricably interwoven and swung between two upright branches. I do not know what species of tree it was, though I think it was a boxelder. None of the trees in the yard had drooping branches

like those of the American elm. Much of the nest material was twine. The lining was principally of horsehair. The drawing was made years ago, and while it is crude, it may bear the marks of authenticity more satisfactorily than any impression I might now reconstruct from memory.

I have seen a good many two-storied nests of the Red-eyed Vireo and Yellow Warbler; but I know of no other instance where nests of this sort were joined in this manner.

If by any chance two pairs of birds made the double nest, their sociability may reflect the colonizing habit of some of the tropical Icterids such as *Zarhynchus*. If but one pair built the two nests, is it not possible that the male used one as roosting quarters? In any event the building of these nests between upright forks, in the manner of many Orchard Oriole nests which I have seen, is an interesting and unusual deviation from the usual custom of this species of swinging the pouch from a drooping bough.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SUTTON, *Ithaca, N.Y.*

The Wood Ibis Observed in Southern Indiana.—Robert Ridgway, in his "Descriptive Catalog of the Birds of Illinois", published in 1913, gives the following range of the Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*): "The whole of tropical and most of warm temperate America, north to New York (casual), Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Colorado, Utah, Nevada and California, south to Equador and the Argentine Republic." Ridgway also mentions several sight records of the Wood Ibis in the lower Wabash Valley, and adds that the species is an irregular summer visitor to southern Illinois. A. C. Bent, in his "Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds", mentions that the species has been recorded in late summer from near Bicknell and Terre Haute, Indiana.

A partial survey of the literature has failed to disclose any recent Indiana records for the species, so it would seem of value to record the following experience. The writer, in company with Mr. Robert H. McCormick, was engaged in some biological studies in southwestern Indiana during the early part of September, 1930. On September 5 we came to Hovey Lake, situated about twelve miles south of Mt. Vernon, Posey County. Posey is the extreme southwestern Indiana county, being bounded on the west by the Wabash River and on the south and east by the Ohio River. Posey Lake averages about ninety acres in size, is only a short distance from the Ohio River, and during flood time is connected by backwaters with that stream. A border of cypress trees with expanded bases and "knees", surrounds and in many places extends out over the waters of the lake. Numerous pecan trees, a neighboring cane break, and plants of many other species found in the vicinity, create an atmosphere which would lead one to believe himself many miles farther south in the Mississippi Valley.

Due to drouth conditions, the lake was at a very low level at the time, and so shallow that it was difficult to approach the numerous mud bars to identify the occasional flocks of shore birds feeding there. About a dozen Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias herodias*), a solitary American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*), and five Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea caerulea*) in white plumage, were feeding along the margins.

Twenty-two Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*), a species which is said to sometimes nest in the county, still remained at the lake. Most of them were perched on the dead tops of bald cypress trees growing in the shallower portions of the lake. Many perched awkwardly, drying their outstretched wings in the bright sunshine, as Turkey Vultures frequently do in the