



They normally complete their nests before the House Wrens make their appearance, thus avoiding this competition. You will be more successful if you employ a fence post as your nest site rather than a tree.

The erection of Bluebird boxes is a fine project for High School Biology classes; boy and girl scouts; 4-H club members; and Vacation Bible Schools, as it teaches a valuable lesson in conservation and bird study.

HERONS

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On July 1st, we had an interesting experience in visiting a Heronry in Manitoba. As we approached the place, we heard a lot of chattering by the birds, then hidden by the foliage of the trees. Coming close we found an area of several hundred square yards on which large maple trees were growing with a majority of the trees spreading and leaning over. Some of the trees contained several nests ranging in size from about ten inches across to some almost three feet across. The smaller nests were mostly lower down and were occupied by the Black Crowned Night Herons, while the larger nests higher up, housed the Great Blue Herons. There were possibly fifty of the Black Crowned Night Herons and twenty or more of the Great Blue Herons. The families ranged all the way from eggs to almost full grown young, about ready to try their wings.

All the nests were built of dry sticks. The larger nests had been built on, year after year, and some were now about eighteen inches

deep. The undergrowth was mostly nettles and wood violets. Under each large nest was a circle, some seven feet in diameter, where nothing grew, owing to the volume of droppings from the nest. Beyond this was a circle of white where the nettles were splashed with lime from the droppings. Many of the sloping tree trunks and the branches close to the nest were worn smooth by the birds' feet.

The noisy clamour of the birds reminded one of a large flock of barnyard fowl being disturbed. There was a great confusion of birds leaving nests and returning to nests, as we went along. About seven or eight Great Blue Herons soared above at one time. We tried taking pictures, but it was difficult to get close to the adults. We might spot three or four almost full grown Blue Herons standing on their long legs towering high above their nests, but on having approached them, they sunk into their nests and refused to pose for a picture. A few nearly full

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