

Birds nests, eggs and egg-collecting

Cassell and Company - Case cracked? The illegal hobby of wild egg collecting



Description: -

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It builds a large nest of sticks, heather, twigs, reed, grass, and moss, with an inner lining of down from the bird's own body. This member of the Duck family selects the neatest and best concealed situation of all.

COLLECTING ANTIQUE NEST AND EGG PRINTS

The bird is a more abundant breeder, however, round the English coast, and less numerous in Scotland. It is said to often utilise the disused nest of the Magpie or Crow, but I am inclined to the opinion that this is not often the case, as the half-score or so of nests which have come under my personal observation have in every instance been built by the Sparrow-Hawk herself. Not long ago a pair of these birds built their nest, and successfully hatched a brood, in the cartridge-box of a cannon which was fired twice daily in the Gun Park at Woolwich.

BIRDS' NESTS, EGGS AND EGG

Birds' Nests, Eggs and Egg

The Blackcap locates her nest amongst nettles and brambles, generally near the ground, but not resting upon it. She lays four or five eggs, white, which are unlike those of the other species of the family, inasmuch as they are speckled with brown, which generally forms a belt round the larger end of the egg.

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The egg is of a pale greenish-blue, or white tinged with greenish-blue, a little spotted and veined, especially at the larger end, with rust-colour or yellowish-brown. The nest is composed of large quantities of dried sedges, flags, and other water plants, and is lined with feathers.

Collecting Nests and Eggs is Illegal

The is particularly well known for this behavior. The eggs number four or five, and are white, with a greenish tendency, spotted, chiefly at the larger end, with ash and light umber-brown.

Birds' Nests, Eggs, and Egg

The Common Wild Duck is also liable to depart widely from her usual habit in the selection of a site for her nest, sometimes adopting a Crow's nest, and even the tower of a church, which latter has occasioned much speculation amongst naturalists as to how the parent bird managed to convey her progeny safely to water.

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