

Record of Study of Kingbird Nest

Homer Weil
1930? Weil

Nest Discovered-----July 1, 1930
 Location of Nest-----Camp Hillside
 Site of Nest-----Oak Tree
 Distance from Ground-----15 Feet
 Distance from Trunk-----4 Feet
 Direction from Trunk-----South East
 Position-----Horizontal on Branch
 Branch at 45 degree angle
 Shape of Nest-----Oval
 Outside Diameter-----5 inches
 Inside Diameter-----3 inches
 Depth-----2.5 inches
 Materials of Nest---

Outside--Pearly everlasting almost entirely
 Inside--Rootlets and Dried Grasses with a
 few strands of yarn.

History of Nest

Number of Eggs when discovered-----One
 July 3, 1930-----Two Eggs
 July 5, 1930-----Three Eggs
 July 18th-----Two Eggs Hatched
 July 19th-----Third Egg Piped(Noon)
 July 19th-----One Young Missing
 (Evening).
 July 21st-----Unhatched Egg removed
 August 4th-----Young Bird left Nest

Summary of Observations

1. Incubation began apparently about July 3rd, after laying of second egg.
2. No definite orientation on nest during incubation period.
3. One parent bird stationed on lookout wire near the nest, while the other brooded the young. It was impossible to approach the nest without warning being given except ~~at~~ on two occasions, both about 11:30 in the morning, when one bird was apparently not near the nest while the other was brooding. (The nest was approached in the usual way.).
4. Young brooded almost continuously for the first ten days after hatching except during feeding.
5. After this time one of the parents took a position just above and to one side of the nest and would remain motionless in this position for periods of one hour or longer.
6. On one occasion the parent bird resumed this position three times in the course of an hour, after being disturbed by intruders passing near the nest.
7. Food consisted largely of nymphs of grasshoppers occasionally varied with small caterpillars and minute insects.
8. Number of feedings were small (3-5) during two hour intervals.
9. Feedings were made rapidly, always in the space of 15-20 minutes.
10. On one occasion both parents came to the nest and while one was feeding a nymph to the young, the other worked the mandibles as if he carried food for the young.
11. Brooding resumed immediately after feeding or the position just above the nest taken.

July 3, 1930- July 13, 1930.

Date-----F-----
 Weather---Fair and Cool with one Severe Storm-----

Length July 3 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 13th
 ---65--- 75---85---100---110---115---116---118---123

Tail ---3---10---11---14---14---16---20---21---30

M.T.F.---3---10---11---14---14---16---20---21---30

Bill-----9-----10-----10-----11-----11-----11-----11-----11-----12

Bill-Eye--12---18---25---27---28---18---20---21---21

Bill-Gape-16---20---20---20---20---22---22---23---23

Bill-Nostril-----6-----7-----7-----7-----8-----9-----9-----9

Eye-Dia.--6-----7-----7-----7-----7-----7-----7-----7

Extent---110---125---160---170---175---185---195---195---200

Wing Rt.--47---65---70---84---95---99---99---100---100

Primary---12---19---20---28---30---38---40---48---50

Wing-Body-22---30---30---31---40---40---42---43---43

Foot-Body-47---50---55---58---58---60---60---60---60

Tarsus---15---17---20---21---21---21---21---21---22

Tarsus-Toe-30---35---36---37---37---37---38---38---38

Foot-----15---16---17---17---19---20---20---21---21

Toe-Rt. N.

1. ~~9~~8-3---8-3---9-3---10-3---10-3, (10-3 continuous)
2. 5-3---8-3---8-3---8-3---9-3, (9-3 ")
3. 10-2---10-3---11-3---11-3---12-3, (12-4 ")
4. 6-2---7-2---8-2---9-2---9-3, (9-3 ")

Toe-Lt. N.

1. 6-3---7-3---8-3---10-3---10-3, (10-3 continuous)
2. 6-3---7-3---8-3---9-3---9-3, (9-3 ")
3. 10-2---10-2---11-3---11-3---12-3, (12-3 ")
4. 6-2---6-2---7-2---8-3---9-3, (9-3 ")

Note-

Measurements expressed in mm.