A Least Flycatchers Nest.

Located on hill behind UBS. Open woods. In an upright crotch of a birch tree about 1½ feet above the ground. Cup-shaped, made of coarse grass and birch bark, lined with fine grass, feathers, plant down.

Measurements: Diameter. 2 7/8 in. 2 3/8 in.
Depth 1 3/4 in. 3/4 in.

Eggs - greenish white, grained, no markings ¾ x ¾, oval.

Cowbird's egg in nest to start with - had been removed.

3 eggs + 1 cowbird egg.

Nest first seen on July 6. Observations began a week later. One young in nest on July 17, apparently 24 hours old. Second young bird appeared on July 18. Third egg did not hatch and eventually disappeared from nest.

Observations -

Mother bird changed position and direction constantly. Sat in every direction, was exceedingly nervous, so kept on the watch all the time. Left the nest often for 2- or 3-minute periods. Returned noiselessly.

Note: Kept in vicinity, uttering soft chechers
occasionally. After young were hatched, he did most of the feeding, coming every few minutes. At one time, however, female left nest nine times in 35 minutes - 3 times in five minutes, returning with food almost every time.

Type of food was not observable at any time. Adult fed young one at a feeding usually, from the mouth. Male perched on side of nest for feeding.

Male bird less conspicuously marked than the female (assuming that the bird who did most of the feeding was the female.) Female wing bars more clearly defined, dark tip on tail.

Young birds were left unprotected during heavy rainstorm on July 24, probably because adults were aware of observation from blind. One young bird found cold and stiff on ground after storm. Was returned to nest. Parents again off. At 9:30 that night parents still not present - dead and live bird in nest. Next morning dead bird was alone in nest. Live ones further were hatched, it was not found on the ground; apparently the parents had carried it away.

Most of the observations check with accounts in Forbush, Besidre and Roberts. The difference in appearance between male & female appear unusual. The neglect of the young by
The parents in the rainstorm were quite unlike the general habit of these birds, as they are recorded as being most solicitous for their young. Measurements were made of young only three times and are worthless.