

My Way of Caring for Nests

by Verdi Burtch

In preparing nests for the cabinet, I mount them on little boards 4.5x5 inches, twenty-four of these just fit a drawer in my cabinet, which is 18 x 30 inches inside. Orange box covers make the best as they are about the right width. I cut them to the right size and leave them rough just as they come from the saw and stain them a dark moss green with a stain made of chrome green and drop of black made very thin with turpentine. The grain of the wood shows nicely and the rough finish is much more artistic than to have the boards planed and they harmonize with the bark of the branches on which some of the nests are placed.

For the ground nests I make little wire baskets and fasten them to the little board mounts. The nests which are on a piece of the branch are fastened by putting a screw up through the bottom of the mount and into the branch, thus fastening the nest securely to the mount.

For Vireos nests and others that are in a forked branch I put a standard on one side or in a corner of the amount and making a hole in the top of the standard fit the end of the branch into the pole in the standard. Several Hummingbirds nests can be mounted on one board by using standards.

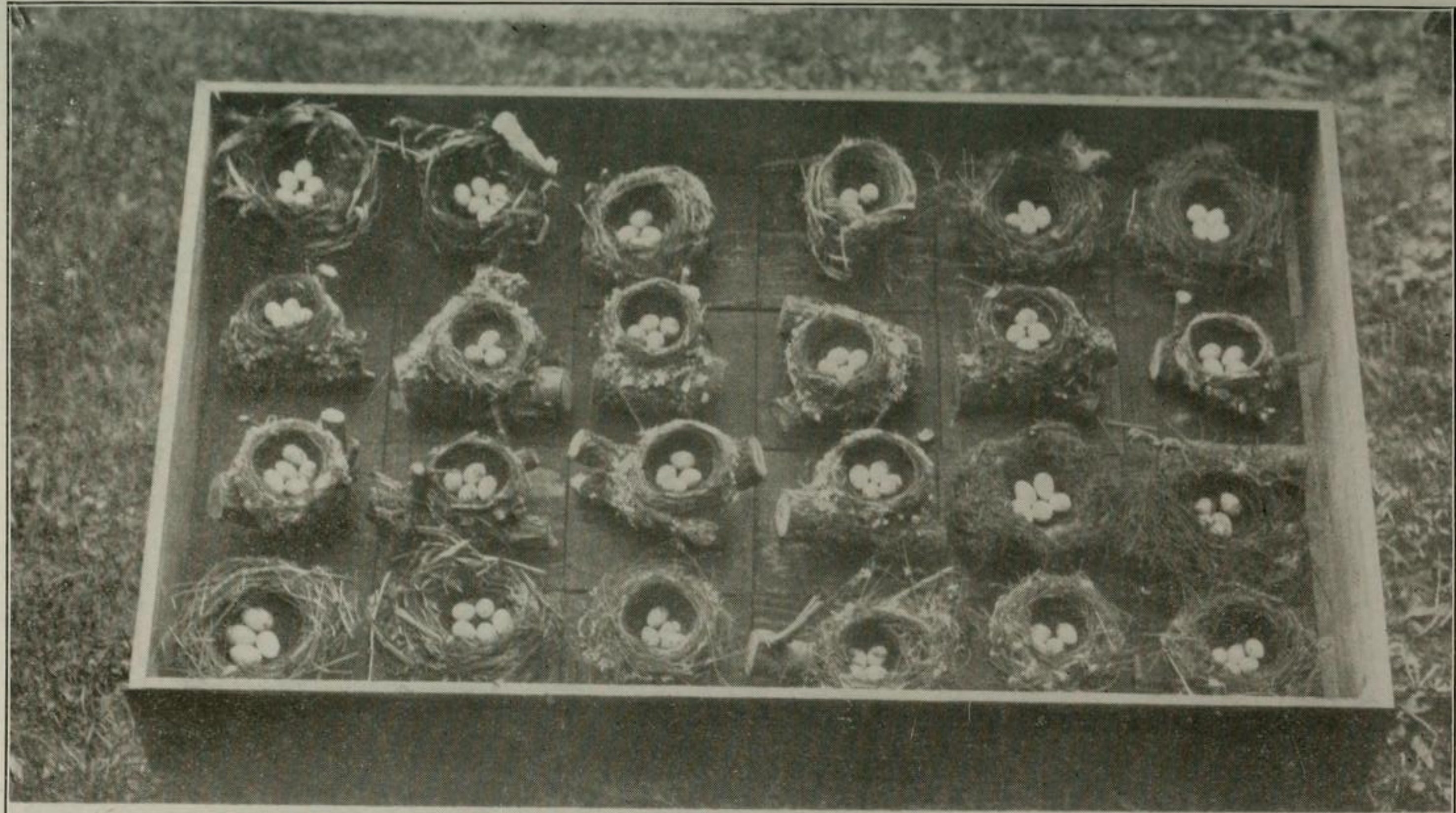
The accompanying photographs shows one of the Warbler drawers in my cabinet. Reading from left to right the nests and sets are Golden-winged Warbler (2), Black-throated Blue Warbler (2), Magnolia Warbler (2); Second row, all Cerulean Warbler; third row, Cerulean Warbler (4). Northern Water Thrush, Blackburnian Warbler; fourth row, Mourning Warbler, Canadian Warbler and Black-throated Green Warbler (4).

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Tray Arrangement of a Collection of Nest and Eggs of N; American Warblers,
Taken in Yates County, N. Y. Photo by Verdi Burtch