



### The Washington Eagle.

**T**HE naturalist Audubon, while travelling in Kentucky, being informed that there was a nest of a large eagle on or near the top of some nearly perpendicular rocks, was curious to know what species it might be, as those with which he was acquainted do not build in such situations. He was told, also, that these birds obtained fish by diving, instead of robbing the fish-hawk, like other kinds of eagles. Being informed that the old birds would come and feed their young with fish, he seated himself in high expectation, about a hundred yards from the foot of the rocks, with the persons who had given him the information. The following is his narrative:—

“Two long hours had elapsed before the old bird made his appearance, which was announced to us by the loud hissings of the two young ones, who crawled to the extremity of the hole to receive a fine

fish. I had a perfect view of this noble bird, as he held himself to the edging of the rock, with his tail spread, and his wings partly so, and hanging something like a bank-swallow. I trembled lest a word should escape from my companions—the slightest murmur would have alarmed the bird; but they entered into my feelings, and, although little interested, gazed with me.

“In a few minutes, the other parent joined her mate, which, from the difference in size—the female being much larger—we knew to be the mother-bird. She, also, had brought a fish; but, more cautious than her mate, ere she alighted, she glanced her quick and piercing eye around, and instantly perceiving us, she dropped her prey with a loud shriek, which communicated her alarm to the mate, and, hovering with him over our heads, they kept up a growling, threaten-

ing cry, to intimidate us from our suspected design. This watchful solicitude I have ever found peculiar to the female.

"The young having hid themselves, we went and picked up the fish which the mother had let fall. It was a white perch, weighing about five and a half pounds. The upper part of the head was broken in, and the back torn by the talons of the eagle.

"Being most anxious to procure both the old and young birds, I engaged my companions to return with me the next day; but, rainy and tempestuous weather setting in, our expedition was necessarily postponed until the third day, when, with guns, &c., we repaired to the rocks. But we passed the whole day without seeing or hearing an eagle, the sagacious birds having, no doubt, anticipated an invasion, and removed their young to fresh quarters."

Two years after the above disappointment, the naturalist had the satisfaction of killing a bird of the same kind; and finding it a new species, he called it the bird of Washington, it being, indisputably, the noblest of the genus known to naturalists.

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### Wrens learning to sing.

**A** WREN built her nest in a box, so situated that a family had an opportunity of observing the mother-bird instructing the young ones in the art of singing peculiar to the species. She fixed herself on one side of the opening in the box, directly before her young, and began by singing over the whole song very distinctly. One of the young then attempted to imitate her. After proceeding through a few notes, its voice broke, and it lost

the tune. The mother immediately recommenced where the young one had failed, and went very distinctly through the remainder.

The young bird now made a second attempt, commencing where it had ceased before, and continuing the song as long as it was able; and when the note was again lost, the mother began anew where it stopped, and finished it. Then the young one resumed the tune, and completed it.

This done, the mother sang over the whole series of notes a second time, with great precision, and a second of the young attempted to follow her. The wren pursued the same course with this as with the first; and so with the third and fourth. It sometimes happened that the young one would lose the tune, three, four, or more times, in the same attempt; in which case the mother uniformly began where they ceased, and sang the remaining notes; and when each had completed the trial, she repeated the whole strain.

Sometimes two of the young commenced together. The mother observed the same conduct towards them as when they sang alone. This was repeated day after day, and several times in a day.

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**A**N Indian forest is the most picturesque scene that can be imagined. The trees seem perfectly animated. The fantastic monkeys give life to the stronger branches, and the weaker sprays wave over your head, charged with vocal and variously-plumed inhabitants.

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**H**AVE not thy cloak to make when it begins to rain.