



Small Worlds Around Us

By
Lynn W.
Watkins

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Makeshift Nest Saves Bird From Nocturnal Predators

Youth is often impetuous, characterized by recklessness or absolute rashness which can, at times, doomsday, result in all kinds of trouble. This applies to baby birds as well as to immature humans.

The very young mockingbird, using no judgment whatsoever, pushed himself over the edge of the nest and landed in a crumpled heap on the ground. The parent birds, by pushing and shoving, finally got the youngster seated on the curb. The youngster was a picture of loneliness and utter despondency; he sat and pouted.

Passing cars, pulling a wave-wind behind them, ruffled the fuzz on the baby bird's nearly bald head. Fortunately the day was warm, but the concrete must have been pretty uncomfortable. Several times one or the other of the parent birds flew down to the youngster and crammed a worm down the eager throat.

During the long afternoon the youngster took several naps, his eyes closed, his head nodding. By late afternoon he barely noticed the occasional cars that passed along the street.

With some concern, the home owner, watching from his living room window, wondered about the baby bird's fate. Several times he considered going out and placing the bird back in the nest, but his better judgment warned him that such a procedure might cause the parent birds to abandon the youngster.

Day Wanes

As the afternoon waned and the shadows lengthened across the yard, the man realized that something had to be done; the baby just couldn't survive the night in its exposed position on the cold concrete of the curb. He had noticed that the parent birds had made no attempt to get the baby back in the nest or even away from the street.

The man made up his mind; he was going to attempt to help the sad, little, fuzzy creature, faced with the approaching night and the danger of nocturnal predators. Knowing of nothing better to do, he gathered a basket of leaves and grass. He approached the little bird with extreme caution. The parent birds watched from the limb of a nearby tree.

Very carefully and slowly the man heaped the basket of leaves around the baby bird, snuggling them up close to the little form. The baby bird cocked its head, looked the man right in the eye but made no move to escape; he actually acted unperturbed. Only Makeshift.

It was a makeshift affair, a poor substitute for a nest — just a bunch of leaves gathered up into a pile. In the center sat the little bird, a lonely, homeless waif facing a long night and countless dangers.

Feeling that he had at least accomplished something, the man retired to his home with an apprehensive glance at the pathetic little heads sticking up above the makeshift nest. The night came on and like all the night before dragged its lonely hours along the street.

As soon as it was light the following morning, the man hurried to the living room window, worried as to what he would probably see. The makeshift nest was still in place and three heads appeared above the rim of the substitute home; mother and father mockingbird had moved in and had spent the night with their wayward offspring, all comfy in their substitute home.

Local Winners of Contest Announced

The six local winners in the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Broadcast Scriptwriting contest have been announced.

They are Larara Griffith, first, and Gail Schaefer, second, for Phoenix High school; Carol Mundlin, first, and Karen Griggs, second, Crater High school; and June Price, first, and Jane Stinson, second, for Medford High school. E. D. Smith, chairman of the Voice of Democracy Contest, said the selection was difficult as each composition was well presented and showed keen understanding of our students regarding "What Freedom Means to Me," the title of the contest.

The three top winners will receive \$50 savings bonds from Crater Lake Post 1833. State judging will be on the basis of tape recordings with winners to be announced later. National winners will receive \$12,000 in prizes.

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