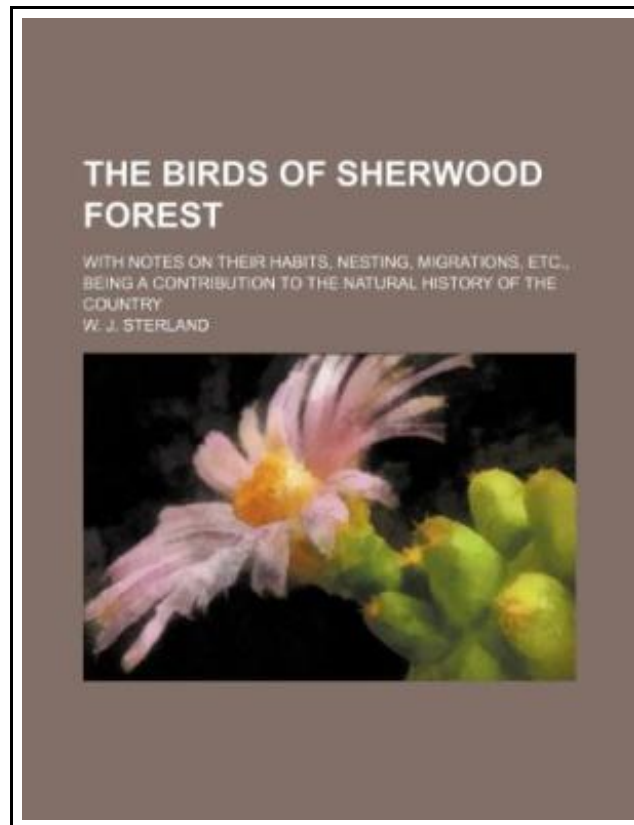


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Rarebookclub.com, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1869 Excerpt: .holes of the sand-martin at Robin Dam, near Rufford, a very unusual site. Pigeon cotes are also chosen, but in these cases the poor starlings become the victims of an ignorant prejudice, the common idea being that they suck the eggs of the pigeons. I fully believe them guiltless of such a habit, and that they are prompted to resort to such places only by a natural instinct to secure a comfortable domicile for their young. The stove-pipe, which I have mentioned as generally occupied by the sparrow, was once selected by a starling for its nest, but its eggs shared the same fate of being half baked. No skill is exhibited by the starling in the construction of the nest, but it accumulates as great a mass of materials as the house sparrow, chiefly dry grass and straw, and rudely lined with a few feathers. I never met with it otherwise than in a hole or cavity of some kind. Insects form the staple of the starling s food, and I think are alwaj s preferred when attainable. I have occasionally seen the birds seize insects on the wing, although it is not a common habit, and the first time it came under my notice it struck me as very unusual. A pair had a nest in the hollow of an old oak in the forest, which at the time contained young ones: one of the parent birds flew out of the hole, which it...



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