

Naturalise  
Orchard Orioles  
7-9-98

The Orchard Oriole is a fairly common summer resident in Pickett County. Males are deep chestnut color on the back and below with a black hood, tail and wings, but the female is greenish yellow with darker wings and tail. Females build woven nests of long green grass stems. I watched a nest being built in a maple a few years ago. The bird expertly pierced leaves with the grass stems, all the while attaching the hanging nest to small limbs by wrapping the stems twice around the limb, then back down into the nest. We have an active nest in our back yard at the present time. Anyone wishing to see it is welcome to visit our place. Just give us a call at 931 864-3236.

Since the invasion of coyotes into this area in late years, Foxes and other similar animals have declined in numbers. Joyce Phillips of Barnes Ridge Community, reported a gray fox crossing the road in daytime as she drove to Livingston last week. This is a sight that is getting scarcer. One wonders how Wild Turkeys survive [and seem to be thriving] the predation by coyotes. Perhaps nature knows best.

The main purpose of this column is to stimulate interest in our natural surroundings, to persuade farmers, who are environmentalists by necessity, to create wildlife habitats and to educate our students in the preservation of wilderness, for as these things disappear so surely does man.

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