

to which the little bird has recourse to keep the living leaves united, of which it is composed. The sole interweaving, more or less delicate, of homogeneous or heterogeneous substances forms the principle adopted by other birds to bind together the parietes of their nests; but this *Sylvia* is no weaver, for the leaves of the sedges or reeds are united by real *stitches*. In the edge of each leaf she makes, probably with her beak, minute apertures, through which she contrives to pass, perhaps by means of the same organ, one or more cords formed of spiders' web, particularly of that of their egg-pouches. These threads are not very long, and are sufficient only to pass two or three times from one leaf to another; they are of unequal thickness, and have knots scattered here and there, which in some places divide into two or three branches.

This is the manner in which the exterior of the nest is formed; the interior consists solely of down, chiefly from plants, a little spiders' web being intermixed, which helps to keep the other substances together. In the upper part and sides of the nest, the two walls, that is the external and internal, are in immediate contact; but in the lower part a greater space intervenes, filled with the slender foliage of grasses, the florets of Syngenesious plants, and other materials which render soft and warm the bed in which the eggs are to repose.

This little bird feeds upon insects. Its flight is not rectilinear, but consists of many curves, with their concavity upwards. These curves equal in number the strokes of the wing, and at every stroke its whistle is heard, the intervals of which correspond with the rapidity of its flight.

Perhaps of all the instincts of Birds, those connected with their nidification are most remarkable; and of all these, none are so wonderful as those of the tribe to which