Even an Ostrich Needs a Nest: Where Birds Begin

Sandra L. Tidwell

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Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell
Reading Level: Toddler, Preschool, Primary
Rating: Excellent
Genre: Informational books;
Subject: Birds--Nests--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

What do twigs, grass, spider silk, yarn, moss, clothespins, newspaper, socks, paper clips, rubber bands, dollar bills, seeds, bark, drinking straws, bottle caps, and towels all have in common? Did you guess nesting materials? Kelly's *Even an Ostrich Needs a Nest: Where Birds Begin* introduces young readers to the pretty amazing and unusual nesting behavior of forty birds. Have you ever heard of a potoo, a Carmine bee-eater, a jacana, or a Vogelkop Bowerbird? Kelly also includes more familiar birds including the American Robin, Emperor Penguin, Baltimore Oriole, flamingo, and Cliff Swallow. It was interesting to read about the unusual nesting materials found in Hammerkops' huge nests and the Satin Bowerbird's home.

Kelly, both author and illustrator, creates a strong connection between the text and the colored pictures. Each page layout is inviting, as colored lines and curving text draw the reader’s attention to new information. The reader can find each bird’s habitat on the second-to-the-last page, where there is a map showing all forty bird locations on a double-page spread entitled "Going on a bird safari? Here's where you'll find the birds in this book.” On the last page the reader is invited to help birds find nesting materials by building a nesting bag to hang in a tree.

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