

Fox Nest

This is where a pair of Swainson's hawks nested last year. I looked from the road through binoculars, and I could see something in the nest. At first it was a quandary; what I saw appeared to be an ear.

I have seen owls nesting in goose boxes and geese nesting in osprey nests, so I thought maybe I was looking at an owl in a hawk's nest. The owl that I found nesting in a goose box saw me but hid its eyes from me, looking at me through slits, because when it did open its eyes and stare at me, it was electrifying! I suspected that this creature was also hiding its eyes because they are a pretty good giveaway. Whatever it was, was hiding and wanted to stay hidden.

I started excitedly chuckling, the closer I got. I was reporting back to Peter that I was looking at genuine EARS. At first I thought it was a bobcat. I scraped my way through the brush to try to get closer. Joyous humor filled me, such a lucky person I am!

The first photo is what I saw when I got close enough to see anything with detail. I still thought it was a bobcat at that point, but I slowly and quietly pressed on, closer to the tree. I was then able to see the tail and how the fox had it draped across its face to hide its eyes.

I don't know the story. I can only speculate. Grey Foxes climb trees. But did it go up and clean out a nest of baby hawks, then was so full it decided to take a nap? I think it might have



gone looking, found nothing but realized it was in a nice safe place to take a nap. But then again, maybe it claimed the nest for itself and is up there

laying eggs!



I think it is a tad early for hawks to be nesting but am not sure. And just in case any of you surmise that the fox was a meal of a hawk, it was definitely still alive. It moved its ears and listened to us and other things. Maybe it thought it could ambush a hawk, though it was too visible to do that.

And finally, go back to the photos of the tree and imagine seeing a fox climb that thing!