

caution about him, and the gun slowly and leisurely resumed, then there is a chance of finally succeeding.

This bird, which it is so difficult to deceive or to surprise, hides, in the profound cavities of the rocks, its nest and its eggs, which are generally four or five in number; both the father and the mother join their efforts to defend to the last extremity, their young ones, against any enterprising intruders; threatened in what they hold most dear, they disdain the artifices to which they have recourse when they are less interested, or when they are concerned only for their own welfare; their own preservation no longer deters them, resigned entirely to the sweetest and liveliest affections of nature, they despise dangers, and consulting more their feelings than their strength, these feeble creatures attack, with uncommon energy, the ravagers whose approach they cannot prevent. But the care which they take in placing their nests at the bottom of narrow cavities, and the precaution which they always have of not entering it while any person is in the vicinity, from the fear of disclosing the retreat of their young ones, prove of more use to them than all their vain but natural courage, and save them
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