

Taking Lessons from Nature

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One cool thing about work right now is that there is a bird nest right outside one of my colleagues' windows. It is literally less than a foot away from his window so it's kind of like having our own little bird observatory/*National Geographic* reality. Every so often we all gather around Brad's window to have a status check on how the family is doing. God must have given us the duty of watching over the birds on top of our admissions duties or something. Needless to say, it's really spiced up our days in the office.

We've had a pretty action packed couple of weeks here and I'm in awe of just how cool nature is. You know how when you're a little kid you learn about all these animals and your teachers explain how the mums and dads take care of the babies, and you never think too much of it. But, I'm telling you, it is SICK to see it up close. (Sick as in good).

We've watched the mother bird lay eggs, then saw one of them hatch, and yesterday I saw the mum and dad taking turns bringing food for the baby. The mum would swoop into the nest with a worm hanging out of its beak and the baby would spring open its little beak as wide as it could, as if yelling "I'm starving!" Then the mum would just stuff the worm down its throat. Meredith and Heather stopped one of our maintenance colleagues from cutting down the tree and even ran outside to pick up the baby when it had fallen out of the nest.

Anyway, it's amazing to me how animals seem so simple minded but are just ingrained with so much intelligence. If you were to ask a human to build a nest with sticks, most people probably couldn't do it. But birds just know. They don't take any classes in it or anything, but they know how to intertwine all the little sticks and make it work. But then again, you ask a bird to change the channel and they probably couldn't do it. Get my drift?

Animals also have this innate love for their kids. It's like they don't even know it, but they just love their kids with no expectation of getting something in return. Yesterday, when it started storming, the mother bird just sat over the nest and spread its wings over the baby, getting soaked herself. Angela came over and said, "I know grown folks who wouldn't do that for their kids." Amen to that.

Man, I need to get out more.