

## THE FIRST PINE WARBLER NEST FOR NORTHWEST OHIO

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Pine warblers [*Dendroica pinus*] are known to nest in southern and eastern Ohio, primarily in the unglaciated portions of the state [Peterjohn, et. al. 1987]. In post-glacial times, the northwestern two-thirds of Ohio was virtually devoid of coniferous trees, hence no Pine warblers. In recent times [the last 50 or 60 years], pines have been planted in many areas of Ohio that had no original pine forest. One such area is the Oak Openings of Fulton, Henry, and Lucas Counties.

Pine warblers have been present in the Oak Openings in the summer for several years now. Breeding was suspected but never confirmed. On 11 June 1987, I found a male and female Pine warbler in Oak Openings Park, Lucas County. I watched the female gather nesting material and fly three times to a clump of needles high in a White pine. Later that evening, Peter Montion and I watched the female working with the nesting material in the same clump of needles.

The nest was located about 85 feet off the ground in a White pine that was 90 feet tall. The nest was hidden in a clump of needles near the end of a vertical branch. Terres [1980] lists nest heights for Pine warblers as between 8 and 80 feet. Bent [1963] states that some South Carolina nests were located as high as 135 feet off the ground. The nest tree was in a clearing with two other large White pines and some smaller pines and deciduous trees. Nearby were extensive pine plantation and deciduous forest.

I returned to observe the nest on 7 July. The male and female came to the nest to feed young, which I heard but could not see because of the nest location. The normal clutch size in this species is four [Terres 1980], so I assume four young may have been present in the nest. I did not observe the nest again so I do not know whether the young fledged successfully.

### LITERATURE CITED

- Bent, A. C. 1963. Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers. Dover Books.
- Peterjohn, B. G., R. L. Hannikman, J. M. Hoffman, and E. J. Tramer. 1987. Abundance and Distribution of the Birds of Ohio. Ohio Biol. Surv. Biol. Notes No. 19.
- Terres, J. K. 1980. The Audubon Encyclopedia of North American Birds. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.