

in the town of Summerfield, Monroe County, Michigan. I doubt if all the nests together of this Warbler previously found equals this number.—P. R. HOY, M. D., *Racine, Wis.*

**Nest and Eggs of the Blackburnian Warbler.**—On the 23d of May, 1879, my lamented friend, the late A. Jennings Dayan, pointed out to me, high in a lofty pine, the yet unfinished nest of the Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica blackburnie*). The exact locality was a grove of large white pines (*Pinus strobus*) on a dry hill just east of Black River, at Lyon's Falls, Lewis County, New York. Some days previously Mr. Dayan had observed the female bird carrying in her bill a downy substance which afterwards proved to be the tufted seeds of the cat-tail. By the aid of a field-glass, after many hours of patient watching, he finally discovered the nest. On the 2d of June he ascended the tree and secured the prize. It was saddled on a horizontal limb twenty-five and a half metres (about eighty-four feet) from the ground, and three metres (about ten feet) from the trunk. The limb measured 15 mm. in diameter where the nest was attached. The nest contained four fresh eggs of the Blackburnian Warbler and one of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*).

Authentic published descriptions of the nest and eggs of this Warbler are so few in number, and so meagre in exact details, that I make no apology for presenting the following: the eggs measure, respectively (all measurements being in millimetres), 12.80 × 17.60, 12.60 × 17.80, 12.60 × 18, and 12.80 × 17.60. The ground-color is pale bluish-green, spotted all over with umber-brown of varying intensity, the spots tending as usual to form a ring at the large end. One differs from the rest in being well sprinkled with blotches of rich dark-umber, which coalesce into a broad zone around the large end. The nest is large, substantial, and very compact. It consists almost entirely of a thick and densely woven mat of the soft down of the cat-tail (*Typha latifolia*), with seeds attached, and is lined with fine lichens, horse hair, and a piece of white thread. On the outside is an irregular covering of small twigs and rootlets, with here and there a stem of moss or a bit of lichen. The outside diameter of this rough envelope is 125 mm.; outside diameter of cup or nest proper, 74 mm.; outside height, 53 mm. on one side and 42 mm. on the other. The inside of the cup measures 50 mm. in diameter and 29 mm. in depth.—C. HART MERRIAM, *Locust Grove, N. Y.*

**Nesting of the Worm-eating Warbler (*Helminthorus vermicivorus*) in Virginia.**—Although of late years the nest of the Worm-eating Warbler has been met with sufficiently often to dispel the obscurity which previous to 1869 rested upon the breeding habits of this bird, its discovery, especially in localities where it is not known to have been already found, is still a matter of considerable interest. While walking along an unfrequented road through the woods near Cobham, Albemarle County, Virginia, on May 19, 1884, my attention was attracted by the notes of a bird evidently in anxiety, and on looking for their source I found that they proceeded from one of these Warblers, which are not very rare in that vicinity in

the spring. I remained quite still, and the bird, which came very close to me, finally betrayed the position of its nest by flying towards it. This was situated about fifteen feet from the road; placed as usual on the ground, which was covered with dead leaves. It was embedded in a slight depression, and was partially concealed by a diminutive plant which grew alongside. It was neatly but not elaborately constructed of dry leaves and catkins, and was lined inside with the small, flexible, reddish brown stalks of a small plant, its dimensions being approximately as follows: external width,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches; internal width,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches; external depth,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches; internal depth  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches. It contained four freshly laid eggs, the appearance of which corresponded to the descriptions of other observers, their color being white, dotted with spots of various shades of light reddish-brown, running together at the larger end, and intermingled with a few spots of lilac. They measured respectively  $.66 \times .54$ ,  $.68 \times .54$ ,  $.67 \times .54$ , and  $.67 \times .54$  inches. As far as I have ascertained, the nest of this species has not before been definitely reported from any point south of the neighbourhood of Washington.—WILLIAM C. RIVES, JR., M. D. *Newport, R. I.*

**Oporonis agilis and Dendroica palmarum palmarum at Shelburne, near Gorham, New Hampshire.**—On September 14, 1884, while collecting near the 'Dryad Camp' on the side of Mt. Baldcap (altitude approximately 800 feet), I secured a female Connecticut Warbler. When seen it was hopping about in a tangle of hobble bushes and low alders, which covered a small piece of swampy ground in high open woods. No others were seen although I looked carefully for them, and went to the same place several times hoping to find more. This adds the Connecticut Warbler to the birds of New Hampshire.

I shot a typical specimen of the western variety of the Redpoll Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum palmarum*), on September 16, 1884. It was in a large mixed flock of Warblers, Chickadees, etc., which were feeding in a row of low birches by the roadside. The eastern form (var. *hypochrysea*) was not seen, although I collected steadily until September 24. This is, I believe, the first specimen of *D. palmarum* which has been taken in New Hampshire; the other five New England specimens being all from Massachusetts.—ARTHUR P. CHADBOURNE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Swainson's Warbler off Southern Florida.**—One of the most interesting facts brought to light by the Committee on Bird Migration is the discovery of Swainson's Warbler (*Helonæ swainsoni*) off Southern Florida, and the establishment of a fixed point in the line of its autumnal migration. On the night of the 14th of September, 1884, ten of these rare Warblers struck the lighthouse at Sombrero Key, one of the Florida Reefs. On the 15th about the same number struck, and on the 21st several more.

For the possession of this valuable information the Committee is indebted to the kindness of Mr. M. E. Spencer, keeper of the light, who forwarded specimens for identification.—C. HART MERRIAM, *Locust Grove, N. Y.*