

warbler, or which has a species which may be distinguished from *D. aestiva* in all its forms.—AUSTIN H. CLARK, *Boston, Mass.*

**Breeding of Wilson's Thrush (*Hylocichla fuscescens*) in Virginia.**—“Northern New Jersey and the northern part of the Lake States northward” is the breeding range of Wilson's Thrush (*Turdus fuscescens* Steph.) as outlined in the A. O. U. Check-List. There does not appear to be any record of the breeding of this species further to the southward. It therefore gives me pleasure to record the fact that on June 25, 1903, while on a collecting trip in my interest to Mt. Rogers (5,719 ft.), Grayson County, Virginia, Mr. Harvey G. Davis found a nest of this species containing three eggs, which, together with the parent birds, is in my collection. This record definitely establishes the breeding range of this species as including the higher mountain region of Virginia. It is probable that this species breeds also in the mountains of North Carolina, but this fact does not seem to be yet established.—JOHN W. DANIEL, JR., *Lynchburg, Va.*

**Notes on the Nesting of the Varied Thrush.**—The following notes on the nesting of the Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) in southern British Columbia may be of interest, as most of the published records are from more northern latitudes.

During the Spring of 1903 I had a good opportunity to note their nesting habits, while running a line of bear traps at the base of Cheam Peak on the lower Fraser River, altitude about seventy feet above sea level.

The birds were found nesting in heavy coniferous forest of very tall timber, with very little undergrowth for the coast district, where dense brush is the rule.

The nesting site was usually a small tree heavily draped with the rank growth of green moss which grows in such profusion in these dark woods. Five nests were taken on the following dates:

28th April. Three eggs, incubation slight. Nest in small hemlock, nine feet from ground, saddled on limb close to trunk, composed of green moss, twigs and rootlets, in a loose foundation of larger twigs, and lined with shredded cedar bark.

3d May. Three eggs with large embryos. Nest in moss-covered spruce, on dead limb ten feet from ground. Nest same as last but lined with fine dry grass, with a few dead leaves in outer structure.

3d May. Three eggs with small embryos. Nest in leaning cedar nine feet from ground; structure and lining same as preceding.

7th May. Three eggs, nearly fresh. Nest in vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), nine feet from ground.

16th May. Four eggs, fresh. Nest in the pendant branch of a large cedar, twelve feet from ground. The last may have been a second laying, as I noticed the birds were breeding there two weeks previously.

Three eggs seems to be the average, as two nests I have taken in previ-

ous years had two and three eggs respectively. The former was a full clutch, as the bird was sitting.

The outside structure of the nests being principally green moss made them comparatively inconspicuous, in spite of their large size, as they were usually saddled on a limb that was completely covered with the same moss.

There is generally a considerable admixture of damp leaf mold in the foundation of the nest, but not in the walls. The average dimensions are about six and a half inches for outside diameter, and three and a half across the cavity.

The ground color of the eggs is rather lighter than in those of *Merula migratoria*; the spots vary from raw umber to dark sepia, and are usually rather sparsely scattered, rather denser towards the larger end but never forming a distinct zone.

The shape is usually a long oval. One set ( $\frac{3}{8}$ ) seems to present the extreme variation in size, the eggs measuring  $1.20 \times .80$  in.,  $1.21 \times .72$ , and  $1.15 \times .73$  inches.

In no instance were two pairs of birds found breeding near each other; the nests were about half a mile apart. The proximity of the nest is usually betrayed by the actions of the birds, which flutter from tree to tree uttering a peculiar chatter not heard at other times.

Before closing these disjointed notes it might be as well to record the irruption of the Varied Thrush during the present winter (1904-05). During other winters a few may be seen, even in the coldest weather, throughout the district west of the Cascades. This winter they fairly swarm; and reports from Okanagan show they are even wintering in the cold interior of the Province. Large numbers of Audubon's Warbler are also wintering in the lower Fraser Valley, though the winter is a fairly severe one. — ALLAN BROOKS, *Sumas, B. C.*

**An Unrecognized Subspecies of *Bellona cristatus*.**— In his 'Descriptions of New Species of Birds of the Families Trochilidæ and Tetraonidæ, (Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci., I, p. 50, 1877) Mr. Lawrence described a new hummingbird under the name of *Orthorhynchus emigrans* as follows:

"*Male*.— The basal half of the crest is of a shining emerald-green, the terminal half deep reddish-violet; the upper plumage is dark grass-green; tail-feathers blackish-purple, the two central ones washed with green; quills light purple; throat smoky-gray; breast and abdomen smoky-black; bill and feet black.

"Length,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  in.; wing,  $1\frac{7}{8}$ ; tail,  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ; bill from termination of frontal feathers,  $\frac{7}{16}$

"A younger specimen, but with the crest fully developed, has the throat whitish-ash, and the outer two lateral feathers [rectrices?] tipped with the same. . . .

"*Habitat*.— Venezuela. Type in my collection. [Now in the American Museum of Natural History, New York.]