

Kentucky Warbler in Massachusetts.—On June 22, 1913, while walking in the Arnold Arboretum, at Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, the writer heard the call note of a warbler followed almost immediately by a song very much different from that of the regular local members of the family. The bird was finally placed in a low moist spot which was covered with rather a heavy growth of high bushes near some oak trees and a spring. I was very much surprised when it proved to be a finely plumaged male Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*). The bright yellow underparts and the black stripe running down the side of the throat were quite conspicuous. The black crown was not so plain, although the yellow about the eye was easily seen. There was not any white evident in the plumage. The warbler was observed from about 12.30 to 1.15 p. m. and was in song most all of the time. The notes seemed to the writer to be rather like two of those of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula calendula*), also recalled the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*). The song was a loud clear whistle of three or four double notes. While under observation the bird did not at any time perch above twenty feet from the ground nor did it fly over a rod from the place where it was first seen. Once I approached to within six feet of it.

Supposing at the time that this was the first record of an *Oporornis formosus* for Massachusetts and desiring corroboration I telephoned to Mr. Richard M. Marble of Brookline, who, with Mr. Joseph Kittredge, Jr., also of Brookline, met me in the Arboretum, that same afternoon. The bird was soon found and both Mr. Marble and Mr. Kittredge identified it as a male Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*). The late date, June 22, led me to look for some signs of breeding, but although I searched for several days afterwards I was unable to find even the bird.

This appears to be the second record for Massachusetts, as Mr. Horace W. Wright reports one at Wellesley on May 14, 1907 (Auk, July, 1907).—
HAROLD L. BARRETT, *Jamaica Plain, Mass.*

Some Observations on a Pair of Brown Creepers (*Certhia familiaris americana*).—On June 11, 1913, while walking through a strip of woods on Cape Elizabeth, Maine, in company with Mr. A. H. Norton of Portland, I found a pair of Brown Creepers among the dead trees along the banks of a brook. Most of these were evergreen trees and a great many of them were dead with pieces of the bark still attached. A careful search failed to reveal any sign of the nest, which I felt sure must be somewhere in the vicinity.

On June 14, I returned to the same place and found the birds again. I watched them and found that they were gathering something from the trunks of the trees. I kept my eyes on one of the birds which had its bill full of something, and saw it disappear off to my left. I changed my position about twenty-five yards and within five minutes had the pleasure of seeing one of the birds disappear in a hole under a large piece of bark on a fir stump.

My time was limited and I was only able to see that both birds visited the nest and that neither of them went directly to the nesting tree but went first to a hemlock tree which was about six feet away.

On June 17, I again returned, prepared to stay as long as there was sufficient light to see by. My observations began at about 3:15 P. M. and were tabulated as follows:

- 3: 19 both birds came to the nest,
- 3: 20 one bird
- 3: 22 " "
- 3: 23 one bird; both then came to trees within 15 feet of me, one on either side.
- 3: 24½ one bird,
- 3: 26 same bird,
- 3: 35 both birds, one waiting at the entrance till the other left,
- 3: 37½ one bird, staid half a minute,
- 3: 38 " " " " " "
- 3: 39 " " " " " "
- 3: 41 " "
- 3: 50 " " staid half a minute,
- 3: 51 " "
- 3: 56 both birds in succession,
- 3: 59½ one bird
- 4: 08 " "
- 4: 12 " "
- 4: 14 the other bird, both in sight,
- 4: 17 one bird
- 4: 18 " " staid half a minute
- 4: 22 " "
- 4: 27 " " staid half a minute, followed immediately by the other bird,
- 4: 36 one bird with what looked like birch bark or moth wings of some kind,
- 4: 38 one bird followed immediately by the other,
- 4: 41 one bird with moth or flying insect of some kind.

On one trip I thought I saw one of the birds taking the excreta from the nest to a tree about fifty paces away, but up to 4:41 I believed that the birds were building. After the visit at that time I was confident that they were feeding young and I went over to the nest to investigate. I enlarged the entrance hole a trifle and looking in could see two young. I put one of my fingers into the hole and could hear the young birds climbing up inside the bark. When I looked into the nest again it was apparently empty. I then started to remove the piece of bark to which the nest was attached and all except one of the young birds left the nest and flew away, making flights of about twenty yards.

As soon as the young birds began to leave the nest the parents became very excited and one of them, probably the female, alighted on a tree

almost within reach. Once she flew by my head so close that I could hear the buzzing of her wings. She continued to fly around me as long as I remained in the vicinity of the nest. The other parent bird appeared very much alarmed too, but never ventured nearer than fifteen feet. Both birds kept up a continual scolding.

The young had left the nest so quickly that I was unable to count them but I thought that five birds left the nest, which, with the one remaining in the nest would make the total of six. This seems to be in keeping with other records which have been published.

After examining the nest I went back to my observing point and waited to see what would be done about the young bird left in the nest. One of the parent birds returned twice but would not go inside. I found one of the birds which had left the nest and the parents became very much alarmed when I tried to catch it.

The entrance to the nest was six feet above the ground: it was two and a half inches long and three quarters of an inch wide. It was so narrow that it was impossible for the parent birds to go into the nest in a natural manner; they invariably entered and left the nest head first with the back toward the stem of the tree. In all visits neither bird ever flew directly to the nesting tree, always going first to the hemlock above referred to.

The nest was secured to the bark rather than to the stem of the tree but in loosening the bark I noticed several silk like threads leading from the nest to the stem of the tree. On the detached nest these show as little balls of dark gray material, probably from the cocoon of some caterpillar. The nest is formed principally of twigs of the fir, these being used to make the foundation of the nest where the bark is some distance from the stem. It is lined with pieces of birch bark and the inner bark of the fir. The rim of the nest has the usual crescent shape, the horns being two inches and a quarter higher than the rim of the nest proper. The depth of nest outside is seven inches, inside two inches, outer diameter six inches, inner diameter three inches, greatest thickness of nest (lower or foundation part) is two inches. The nesting site is about one and one half miles from the ocean and at an altitude of about forty-five feet. This is the first record of the breeding of the bird in this vicinity.

The only call I heard was the "tseet" usually heard when the birds are flying from one tree to another. This call was almost invariably given when the birds were coming to the nest. Several times I saw one of the birds alight on the hemlock tree near the nest, and with wings aquiver give the same call. Its manner and appearance then were those of a well grown young bird calling for food.—I. RALPH MEYER, LIEUT. U. S. A., *Fort McKinley, Portland, Me.*

Bicknell's Thrush in Franconia Notch, N. H.—Last summer (1912) a friend and myself found a thriving colony of Bicknell's Thrush (*Hylocichla aliciae bicknelli*) on Mt. Pemigewasset, New Hampshire, at an