

the breeding season. It is interesting to note that on the same day I saw a female Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) in the same swamp. While the breeding records of the latter species indicate a more southerly distribution than in the case of the Tennessee Warbler, it is, I believe, regarded as a Canadian Zone type. Other Warblers noted in this same swamp from June 27 to July 1st were the Nashville (*Vermivora ruficapilla ruficapilla*), Magnolia (*Dendroica magnolia*), and Blackburnian (*Dendroica fusca*).—CLIFFORD H. PANGBURN, *Chappaqua, N. Y.*

The Short-billed Marsh Wren breeding in Westchester County, N. Y.—On May 24, 1925, I discovered a colony of at least ten pairs of the Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*) in a marsh near Chappaqua, Westchester County, N. Y. While no nests were found, the birds were present throughout the breeding season and I often saw them carrying food to the young. The spot where the Short-billed Marsh Wren occurred is, except for two or three narrow ditches, comparatively free from water. It is filled with tussock grass and sedges but has only one small clump of cat-tails. Since Dr. Fisher's notes at Ossining in the early eighties, I know of no Westchester County breeding records for this species, which is, in fact, exceedingly rare near New York City at all times.—CLIFFORD H. PANGBURN, *Chappaqua, N. Y.*

Mountain Chickadee With an Adopted Family.—May 15, 1925, I made a trip ten miles southeast of Santa Fe intending to examine a number of bird boxes. One of the boxes contained a set of six eggs of the Mountain Chickadee (*Penthestes gambeli gambeli*) and three eggs of the Gray Titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus griseus*) with the Chickadee incubating. I took out the six eggs of the Chickadee and left those of the Titmouse.

May 22, the Chickadee was incubating four Titmouse eggs, all of which hatched. June 8, I again visited the box and found the Chickadee busy feeding four young Titmice.—J. K. JENSEN, *Santa Fe, New Mexico.*

Ruby-crowned Kinglets Nesting in Michigan.—On July 4, 1925, Mr. M. J. Magee, Mr. W. J. Breckenridge and myself found a pair of Ruby-crowned Kinglets carrying food; and as this species has never been found nesting in Michigan, according to Prof. W. B. Barrows, it awakened more than ordinary interest.

Search at the time failed to find the nest. But on the following day, Mr. Breckenridge and I returned to the locality and found the nest, containing six or seven young, in an open cedar, spruce, and tamarack swamp, with a wet springy moss underfoot and a small lake close by on Sugar Island, Chippewa Co.

The heart-shaped nest, six inches long and four inches across at the top, was in a small twelve foot spruce about six feet from the ground.

The top of the nest was woven and fastened to a dry, short branch leaning downward along the trunk of the tree, thus leaving the bottom

free, and the nest about an inch from the trunk. The whole nest was well concealed, covered and protected by several thick green branches hanging directly above it. The nest was made principally of moss, evergreen needles, poplar catkins, grass and a feather. It was thick and had a soft, spongy feeling. The young had but recently hatched. A short portion of the Kinglet's spring song was frequently heard and when the parent was disturbed it chattered like a scolding House Wren.—K. CHRISTOFFERSON, D.D.S., *Saulte Ste, Marie, Mich.*

Changes in Bird Life in Amherst, Massachusetts in Twenty Years.—This spring (1925) in Amherst, Mass., I was delighted to hear Song Sparrows singing on every side and later to note that they nested freely through the town. Twenty years ago these birds were only to be found in thickets outside of the village. Another surprise was the summering of a Maryland Yellow-throat on my mother's grounds in Amherst, as this species used to be even more distinctly a bird of tangles on the outskirts. On June 10, I heard a typical *wichery wichery wichery* from the garden, but on my next visit—July 1—I was much puzzled over an entirely new song which, to my astonishment, I discovered came from a Maryland Yellow-throat. I stayed all morning and heard nothing but this song from him. It was a warble with little accent and no pauses except a slight one in the middle: *tee-der-der tee-der-der*.

An especially lovely bird, that has established itself in town since my school days, is the Wood Thrush which may now be heard singing in the ravine near the site of the old High School. On June 23, we saw a Black-throated Blue Warbler and heard its curious song in woods near Amherst at an elevation of only 200 feet; this is certainly a new summer bird in this immediate region, although we found it breeding on the Pelham Hills and on Mount Holyoke four years ago.

Birds that have increased in numbers are Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Barn and Cliff Swallows and House Wrens. All of these, twenty years ago, were uncommon; now they would be called common.

Species that have decreased are Bobolinks, Least Flycatchers and English Sparrows.

The Starling is, of course, entirely new, having first appeared in 1910.¹ I have had no experience with it as a nesting species, but in the winter, in Amherst, it seemed to me quite an entertaining addition to the otherwise scanty bird life.—MARGARET MORSE NICE, *Pelham, Mass.*

¹ Cooke, May T. Spread of the European Starling in North America. U. S. Dept. Agri. Dept. Cir. 336, p. 3.