

A Recent Colima Warbler's Nest.—Since the last previous nest of *Vermivora crissalis* was found in 1941 and one of the most recent reports on the species (Blake, Wilson Bull., 61: 65-67, 1949) includes the statement "Chisos population reported absent since 1946," more recent data seem to be worth publishing.

Ellen Stephenson and I reached Boot Spring Camp in the Chisos Mountains of the Big Bend National Park, Brewster County, Texas, at noon on June 22, 1954, with a study of the Colima Warbler (*Vermivora crissalis*) our principal objective. The camp consisted of a tar-paper cabin and several tents, while the steep hillside leading down to the dry stream bed was a dump, full of tin cans and rubbish. Walking up the stream side to the dam we found Colima Warblers in full song and realized that these were the unknown phrases heard in three places on the ride up to Boot Spring. To our ears the notes more nearly resembled those of the Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) than the Chipping Sparrow's (*Spizella passerina*) as it has been described in literature. The Pine Warbler-like trill was followed by two lower notes, the final one usually accented.

Later in the afternoon, sitting on the brink of the ravine beside the camp, I watched four Colima Warblers busily feeding among the small trees and shrubs, at eye level, and much of the time too close to permit the use of binoculars. They were moving quickly among the low oak and maple shrubs and were active and busy, though most authors describe their movements as slow and vireo-like. The most brightly marked bird once raised his crown like a Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) displaying the rufous crest. Two of the other three showed no rufous on the crown. The most noticeable color on the birds was the yellow rump and crissum, which flashed so brightly in flight as to suggest the approach of an altogether more brilliant bird than the Colima Warbler.

In the early evening we went back to this vantage spot, and in a few minutes noticed one of the warblers disappear into the base of the steep ravine side, carrying a small green caterpillar. Looking where the bird had vanished behind a greasy paper sack, we found a nest with four well-grown young. These nestlings were well-feathered and showed vivid golden-lined mouths as they begged for food. When I attempted to pick one up for closer inspection, all four fluttered out of the nest, while both parents chipped excitedly around us. Since it was then 6:30 P.M. and becoming dusk, we left immediately, hoping that the parents would call the young back to the nest for the night. On the following morning, when we again investigated the area, the nest was empty and the young were not seen. We collected the nest, placed it in a rusty coffee can from the "dump" and packed it out on horseback.

Previous nests have been found in 1932 by Van Tyne (Univ. Mich. Mus. Zool. Misc. Publ., 33: 1-11, 1936), in 1933 by Sutton (Cardinal, 4: 1-7, 1934) and a Chicago Natural History Museum expedition which found four nests and collected one in 1941 (Blake, *op. cit.*). These are all from the Chisos Mountains and, except for Sutton's, from the Boot Spring area. The nest has never been found in Mexico, though the species is known from Coahuila, Tamaulipas, Michoacán, Sinaloa, Guerrero, and Jalisco (where the type and another specimen were taken on the Sierra Nevada de Colima). *Vermivora crissalis* has actually never been recorded from the state of Colima (Van Tyne, *in litt.*).

This fourth collected nest of the Colima Warbler was embedded in vegetation and rubbish at the base of the hillside, one side against a rusty tin can, and partly protected in front and from above by a greasy paper bag; other rubbish and trash littered the ground around. By the time the nest reached the Peabody Museum, after many hundred miles by car and by mail, it was somewhat oval in shape, but the measurements agree well with those given by Van Tyne for the first nest found.

The oval nest opening is more nearly 5.5×4.5 cm. than the 5 cm. diameter he mentions; the maximum depth, though the edges of the top had been somewhat broken by the active young, is the same, 4 cm. The nest is composed of fine grasses, with two small pieces of Arizona Cypress (*Cupressus arizonica*) on the outside; there are many small oak and maple leaves (tentatively identified as *Acer grandidentatum* and *Quercus emoryi*, when compared with material in the Harvard Herbarium by Dr. Stuart Harris). Two pieces of shredded cedar bark are loosely placed near the top, but only one small piece of moss, mentioned in other nests, is visible. The nest has been deposited in the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, with the type nest.

Blake (*op. cit.*) notes that in 1947 no Colima Warblers could be found in Boot Spring Valley. However the species has been seen in the area regularly from 1949 on, at least five birds being found in Boot Spring Canyon in 1953 (Peter Koch, Sprunt, Robert Fox, *in litt.*). On our ride back to headquarters we again heard Colima Warblers at lower elevations, making a total of eleven males heard singing, of which four were seen, one female, two birds showing no rufous on the crown, and four nestlings; a total of 18 birds of this species.

I am most grateful to Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne for information and suggestions as well as for his critical reading of this manuscript.—DOROTHY E. SNYDER, *Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.*

Cape May Warbler Feeds on Amphipods.—A warm front with a flow of moist southwesterly winds from the Gulf of Mexico assailed the New York City and Long Island area on October 2 and 3, 1954. Temperatures hovered in the 80s with the relative humidity rising to the low 90s.

On October 3, 1954, I arrived at Jones Beach State Park, L.I., N. Y. at 6:00 A.M. On the beach a dense fog greeted me, a fog that was so thick in places one could literally cut through it with a knife. The visibility was limited to some ten yards. Emanating from the fog overhead were heard many chips of warblers as they passed by. By 10:00 A.M. visibility improved somewhat, to 25 yards, and remained so until about 5:00 P.M.

Near the high-tide line, a small bird was noticed, fluttering around in a peculiar manner. Upon closer examination, it proved to be a Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*), and it was chasing and catching some kind of prey. The warbler fluttered its wings as it skimmed and bounced along the sand in a jerky motion. As I watched it through my $10 \times$ glasses, I saw the bird successfully catch small whitish animals and swallow them. At times the warbler would stand motionless with one of the animals in its bill, and I managed to approach to within a few feet of the bird and see its food with great detail. These small animals were quite common on the damp sand and under piles of eel-grass. I collected a number and identified them as *Orchestia platensis*, a species of amphipod about 14 mm. in length ranging along the Atlantic Coast as far south as Florida (Pratt, *Manual of the Common Invertebrate Animals*, Revised Edition, 427, 1951).

Interspersed on the beach were small groups of fishermen who gave the impression of being detached from the land when viewed through the tenuous vapors of the fog. At times the Cape May would fly to these groups and flutter up their legs and equipment. To the warbler, the fishermen probably appeared as clumps of vegetation. The fishermen watched with amusement the antics of this small, strange bird.

While I had the warbler under observation for about 2 hours, it caught and ate some 25 amphipods.—WALTER DAWN, *Bulls Island, Awendaw, South Carolina.*