

backed thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata*) containing four eggs, placed in a small, dense fir tree in a meadow. This apparently extends the vertical breeding range of this species, since the Big Tree hermit thrush appears at less than 1,000 feet above Echo. An interesting nest of the mountain bluebird (*Sialia arctica*) was also found by Mr. Taylor at Echo, built in a fence post beside the road and containing seven eggs.

A day was spent at Echo Lake (altitude 7600 feet) about the borders of which the unmelted snow of winter still lay, and a passing band of Clarke nutcrackers served to accentuate the impression that we were in the boreal zone. Journeying back to Echo two nests of the Big Tree thrush (*Hylocichla guttata sequoiensis*) were discovered. Mr. Taylor found one rather conspicuously located ten feet up in a young tamarack pine beside the road. It contained three eggs quite well incubated. A short distance farther I secured a nest with four eggs about one-third incubated, built only

two feet up in a small tamarack sapling. Both nests were built in trees directly next to the stage road, where the heat and summer's dust would seemingly prove undesirable to a bird of a thrush's tendencies. In both instances the birds had slipped from their nests before we found them. The nests were deeply cupped and substantially built. This was on June 17.

The Big Tree thrush apparently sings but infrequently during the heat of the day, but for a few hours preceding twilight it makes the mountain meadows resound with rare melody. On June 7 Mr. Hanford secured a Lincoln sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) on a meadow at 7,200 feet elevation, where it was probably about to breed. On June 19 near the summit a western goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus striatulus*) flew across the stage road in front of us, disappearing into the timber. Mr. L. E. Taylor collected two sets of Calaveras warbler, one on May 27 at Fyffe and another on June 1 near Pacific.

Nesting of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

BY H. F. BAILEY, SANTA CRUZ, CAL.

DURING a season of "experience" and observation in Alaska I was fortunate enough to take the nest and eggs of the ruby-crowned kinglet (*Regulus calendula calendula*). The birds were abundant during the summer months in the neighborhood of Kenai, Cook's Inlet, where I was located, and bred in the dense spruce timber.

Although I spent much time looking I was never able to find but one nest. On May 15, 1901, while going through the woods I noticed a kinglet carrying material into the top of a tall spruce and I watched her. She was very busy. The nest was not visible on account of the thick foliage, but I noted the place, marked the tree, and blazed a trail to it. Two weeks later, May 28, I revisit-

ed the spot but the birds were not about and I could flush nothing out of the tree. However, I could hear the male bird repeating his whistling song, very much in the style of the olive-sided flycatcher, from the top of the tallest tree in the vicinity. His note can be heard as far as the olive-sided flycatcher's and is all out of proportion to the size of the bird.

I decided to wait a while longer before investigating the nest. June 6 when I jarred the tree again the bird flew out. The mosquitoes were terribly numerous and hostile by this time, and I reluctantly removed my head covering, before ascending the tree, to prevent its getting torn on the short wiry branches. The nest was about thirty feet up where the branches did

not spread more than a foot and a half or two feet from the stem, and about six or eight feet from the apex. It was suspended among some dead twigs near the trunk and hidden by the surrounding dense foliage.

It was beautifully made, pyriform in shape, with the small end downwards, about six inches long and five inches through at the thickest part. The cup was very deep and the rim very much contracted enclosing a spherical space with a small opening at the top. The material used in construction was moss, fur, and silky, fibrous substances woven compactly together. The lining was of ~~moose hair and feathers from the northern spruce grouse~~ (*Canachites canadensis labradorius*, Bangs). Some of these latter were woven into the rim, the

stems firmly secured and the free tips curling inwards until they met, thus forming a curtain over the contracted opening and completely enclosing the interior. A very warm house was the result.

The number of eggs was *eleven*, incubation slightly advanced. Ground color, light buff almost white with numerous fine, pale, brown spots, so pale as to be indistinguishable, thickest near the larger end. The effect is as if a fine layer of dust had settled on the eggs. As to size, not having any calipers or other means of measuring them accurately, I can only state in a general way that they resemble in shape the eggs of the California bush-tit, but are considerably larger.

Notes on the Black-throated Gray Warbler.

BY C. W. BOWLES, TACOMA, WASH.

IT seems rather superfluous to write anything more about *Dendroica nigrescens*, as it has been written up several times, but there may be no harm in having descriptions from different points of view. Its habits seem to me about the same as the combined habits of the black-throated green and prairie warblers of the Eastern states. Like the former, it likes tall trees (with a preference for conifers) to climb around and nest in, but it wants them well scattered, so as to have plenty of light and air and to give bushes a chance to grow if they do not grow too thickly, so that it can build in a bush if it happens to feel that way. Like *discolor* they prefer high and dry places but do not seem to object if a swamp or river is nearby, if the ground beneath the nest is dry.

On the line between Oregon and California, about thirty miles east of the coast, it seems to prefer oak trees in the spring because of the small green caterpillars that are very numerous on them and which are devoured on all occa-

sions. One female must have eaten nearly half its weight of them (from three-fourths to one and one-half inches long) while its nest was being taken, so that it is difficult to understand how it could hold them all, unless their digestion is as rapid as that of the genus *Pulex* (sometimes called flea.) Two pairs that were watched while building had the same way of going about it. The male followed the female very closely, scolding almost continuously, or perhaps making suggestions, as she did not seem to mind it and gathered materials and acted very much as if he was not there. This continuous scolding generally seems to indicate nest-building and is apparently the only direct method of finding the nest. After the eggs are laid the male is never near while singing and their skill in reaching the nest without being seen can only be accounted for on the principle of the survival of the fittest, for if they were any less careful they would certainly be exterminated by Steller and California jays and