

gion, about the latter part of April. It builds its nest in chimneys and appears to prefer the old-fashioned square chimney ; ones that are not in use. It rarely builds in chimneys that are in use if others can be found, which would leave us to infer that it was not particularly partial to smoke. In the unsettled sections of country, it builds in the trunks of hollow trees and in caverns.

The nest is composed of small twigs which it breaks off with its feet and cements together. The nest is stuck firmly to the side of the chimney or hollow tree, with the same glutenous substance that is used in cementing the twigs.

The eggs, usually four in number, are dusky-white and unspotted. Not unfrequently, small or "luck eggs" are found in the nests, which is the case with two sets that I have collected. Two broods are usually reared in a season. It feeds on insects and the larvæ of small beetles, the indigestible portions of the food being disgorged.

THE BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.

Mniotilta varia.

BY WM. L. KELLS, LISTOWEL, ONT., CANADA.

This species, in some of its food-seeking habits, resembles the Brown Creeper, for which reason it has, until lately, been denominated the Black and White Creeper. It also frequents much the same situations, though it does not penetrate so deep into the forest ; but is often, especially in spring-time, observed on the outskirts of the woods and in new fallows, where the other species of Creeper is never heard or seen. Its movements, while in quest of its insect food on the trunks of trees, are generally in a circular manner, and its mode of procedure, rather a series of hops, than creeping jerks. It will also run out along the branches and cling to a limb with its feet, sus-

pended back downward, while searching for the prey that may be concealed in the crevices of the bark. Its food-seeking employment is often varied in the early season by its perching on a small branch and warbling its song in a cheery and pleasing manner. At other times, it will alight upon the ground and feed upon the various species of insects that it finds there, and again it may be seen running along old logs and fallen brushwood, foraging for food, or seeking a nesting place, or material for its nest.

It arrives in this vicinity about the middle of May, and for a time it may be observed pursuing its various avocations, in company with many other small birds, along the fences and the borderings of the woods. As the season advances, it seems to prefer to glean more amongst the higher timber, though it is never very shy, or manifests much alarm at the approach of human kind, and when incubating, the female will remain upon the nest until she may be caught, or almost trodden upon before she flushes. When nesting or incubating, she remains very quiet, so that the nest might be within a few feet, and yet the person not be aware of the bird's existence; but as soon as the young begin to assume their nesting plumage, the old birds soon betray their nesting place by their noisy notes.

The nesting sites of this species are much similar to those of the Slate-colored Junco and Connecticut Warbler, being either in the root of a fallen tree, the side of a small bank, at the root of a bush, or some other partially covered spot, somewhat like that of the Oven-bird. The nest is generally formed of some fine materials, as dry leaves, bits of moss, fibres of bark, fine, dry grass, rootlets and different kinds of hair. The set of eggs numbers four or five; these are of a creamy-white hue, dotted around the larger end with a circle of pale reddish-brown spots. In size they average .63x.53 inches. The bird itself is about five inches in length. The plumage on the upper parts is black and white, in alternate specks. The lower parts are white, the tail is spotted and the wings are barred.

[B. S. O.]