

rather proud to show off its nest to interested and flattering strangers. A typical nest thus pointed out by an over-obliging bird was saddled neatly on a horizontal limb of a balm tree at the height of about 30 feet from the ground and the ever-present lake. Since it was found on June 12th, (1896) this nest contained three fresh eggs. It made an easily marked prominence on the two-inch limb which supported it, and measured, inside, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep by 2 inches wide; outside 2 inches deep by 3 inches wide. It was composed of dried grasses, vegetable fibres and the familiar gray hemp. A few feathers and bits of cotton from the old catkins of the balm tree were worked in; but there was no apparent difference in the texture between the inside and the outside and no attempt at external ornamentation or concealment. Hence quite different, it will readily be seen, from the shallow, lichen-colored nest of the common Wood Pewee. The eggs are not distinguishable from those of *C. virens*.

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GENERAL NOTES.

NOTES FROM BERWYN, PENN.—INCREASING SPECIES.—With the evidence at hand of the decrease in numbers and the not infrequent disappearance entirely of many of our birds in various localities, it has been a good deal of pleasure to me to note a more or less marked increase in numbers of a few of our local species during the past season. The Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, the first to attract the attention and admiration of him who was destined to be known as the Father of American Ornithology, is far from common. It has been observed oftener during the present year than for a period of the six years preceding. Several were found wintering with us, and several broods of young were raised, to my knowledge. It became quite a common occurrence to note several of the beautiful Scarlet Tanagers, *Piranga erythromelas*, in a few minutes' walk during the May migrations, while the average number of individuals in former years was very few. The increase became perceptible last year to a less degree, when it was first found nesting. This season, its unobtrusive "chick-chur" became a familiar sound, issuing from almost every suitable thicket of saplings and wild grape vines. Up to June 2, of the present year, I was practically unacquainted with the Purple Martin, *Progne subis*. Whether it be through the breaking up of a colony or the surplus of an over-crowded neighborhood, we are the gainers of perhaps more than a half-dozen

pairs of this wholly beneficial species, all of whom succeeded in rearing their young, thus increasing several fold. While a decade may pass before the Bluebird, *Sialia sialis*, becomes as abundant as it was before the great blizzard of February, 1895, pairs and small flocks may commonly be seen, where it was unusual to find a solitary individual or pair, the previous year. The rapidity with which this species is recovering from the almost annihilation occasioned by the great storm at their winter home, is gratifying indeed. To the above list I would add the Belted Kingfisher, *Ceryle alcyon*; Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*; Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*; Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis*; and most of our breeding Warblers. All being bright plumaged birds, I am almost persuaded to believe that cruel fashion has become less importunate in her demands upon Nature for adornment of this class. That this relic of barbarism has not yet become obsolete I have recently had ample proof, for seven Hummingbirds were counted on the hat of a lady examining my collection, the display fairly rivalling the case of mounted birds she was viewing.

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THE BREEDING OF WARBLING AND YELLOW-THROATED VIREOS.—WARBLING VIREO.—On the morning of May 31, 1893, I noticed a Warbling Vireo taking cotton from a bunch which I am in the habit of keeping in a tree by my window. The nest was soon found, about half finished, in an apple tree, near the end of a lower limb and about ten feet from the ground. The tree stood in a row by a little used drive-way, 100 yards from the bird's "cotton mine." After watching the nest for some time I found that the female took, on an average, one minute for the round trip after cotton, and another to put it in the nest. The male did not work, but kept near his mate and sang almost constantly. On June 3, in the afternoon, there were two eggs in the nest, so the first was probably laid the day before—June 2. June 5, 7:15 A. M., there were three eggs, and the bird was on, probably laying the fourth, as she left the nest with great reluctance. June 10 and 17 sitting, but on the 25th the four young were out and not less than four days old. The pinfeathers on the spinal tract were 1-16 inch long. This would make the period of incubation fifteen days if the bird began to sit immediately after laying the last egg, and if my estimate of the age of the chicks was correct. I had to be away for a week at this time, and on July 5, I took the deserted nest. It was quite lousy. The materials used were few—a frame of cedar bark strips, filled $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick with cotton and lined very thinly with a few dry grass stems.