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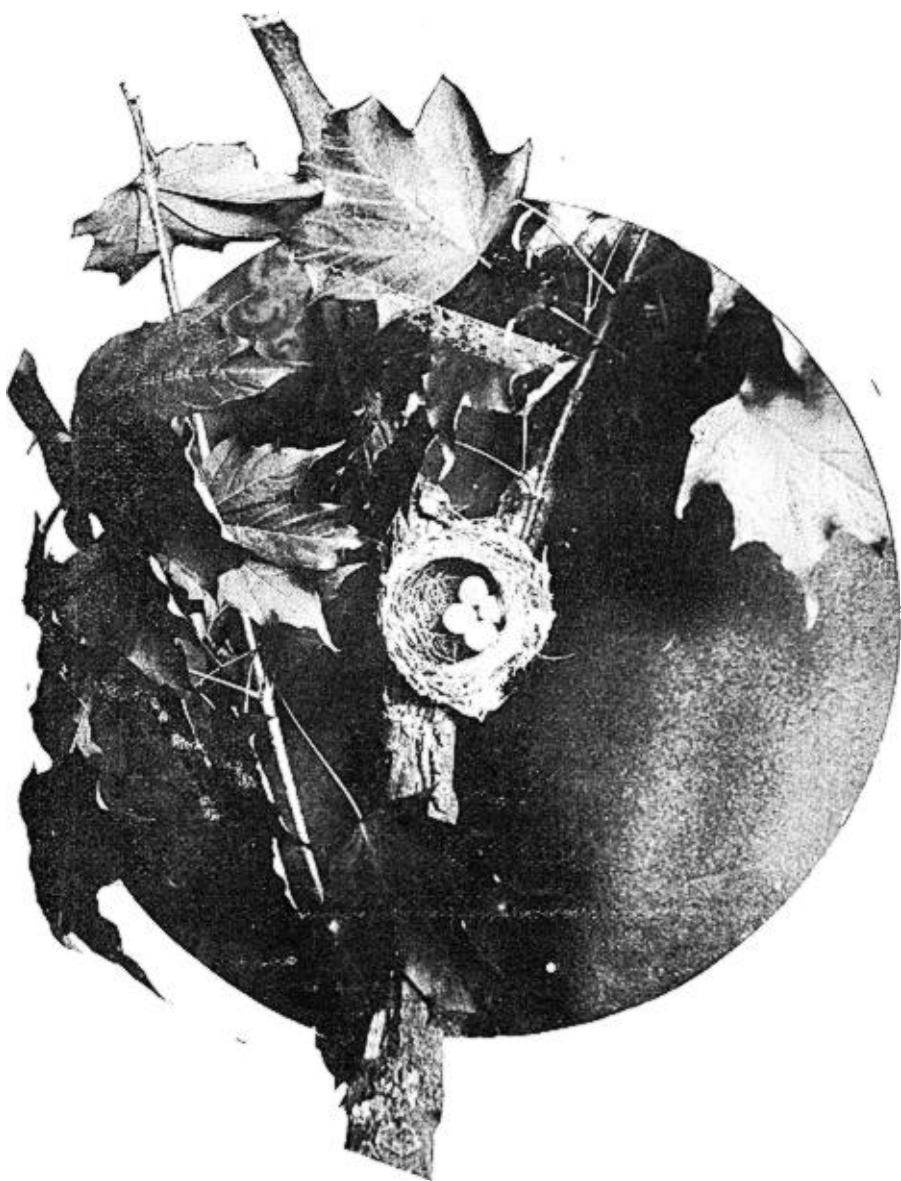
THE CERULEAN WARBLER (*Dendroica rara*).

LYNDS JONES.

It is only recently that this warbler's nests have been found anything like commonly. Indeed, until recently its eggs have been sold at a high price and its nests much prized. The accompanying illustration of a nest found the past season near Oberlin gives nearly the typical nest and its position on the branch.

About Oberlin this warbler is found in the deeper woods, preferably where there is considerable moisture, at least during the spring months. Swampy woods are not much in favor. The trees must be small and slender, with few or no branches within twenty feet of the ground. Among these high branches the male feeds and sings, during the brooding days making regular rounds to and from the nest. One may locate the tree in which the nest is hidden by patiently watching the male on his rounds, for the nest tree marks a halt in his otherwise somewhat regular progress of search for food. It is also the focus for all of the different excursions in different directions.

The nests which I have actually found have been in trees which grow near, but not in, a shallow, sluggish woods spring stream. Spring freshets have removed enough earth to make a depression, but not enough to make a ditch. The tree has not been one of several forming a thicket of branches, but rather one which stands somewhat by itself. The nests have invariably been placed upon branches at some distance from the bole of the tree, on the top of a more or less horizontal fork of the branch. I have never seen a nest built into a per-



TYPICAL NEST OF CERULEAN WARBLER

Courtesy of Dawson's Birds of Ohio

Photo by Lynds Jones

pendicular crotch, after the manner of the Yellow Warbler, nor distinctly saddled into the crotch like the Wood Pewee.

The male has never shown much concern about the nest, but the female makes some feeble demonstration if the nest is closely approached. I have never seen the evidence of distraction exhibited by so many birds when their nests are threatened. A sharp, metallic chip, and restless flitting within two rods of the nest is the extent of the female's demonstration.

The eggs are decidedly warbler-like in every respect, but with a tendency to grayness in the markings. However, a word description of the eggs of many of the warblers is worthless; it is sufficiently difficult to distinguish between the eggs when one has them in hand.

It seems strange that the eggs and nests of this warbler have been so long rarities in collections when the birds are certainly not rare breeders in almost any part of Ohio where conditions are at all favorable. No doubt the height at which the nests are placed is the main cause for the scarcity.