

AN OHIO NEST OF THE BLACK AND WHITE  
WARBLER.

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It was while on a collecting trip in Hocking County, Ohio, on May 29th, 1910, that I discovered this rare Ohio set. A Ruffed Grouse had been flushed, and while searching for a possible nest, my companion called my attention to a small bird that he had flushed from the ground. I immediately recognized it as a female Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*). In a few moments she flew to the base of a small sapling and disappeared. Close search soon revealed her upon the nest. I had a small stick in my hand and pushed it toward her to flush her from the nest; as the end of the stick almost touched her, she left the nest and hopped up and perched upon the stick, the other end of which I held in my hand. She would have been a model subject for the camera, but unfortunately, I did not have it along.

The nest was sunk into a depression in the ground at the base of, and overhung by, the roots of a slender sapling growing upon a steep hillside that was overgrown with underbrush and saplings, and was composed of dead leaves, strips of inner bark of some tree and slender strips of grape bark, nicely cupped and lined with hairs of raccoon and opossum.

It contained five eggs that were advanced in incubation, in fact, they would have hatched in another day; in color they were creamy white, speckled and spotted and blotched with red-brown and lavender. The markings form a wreath at the larger end; the deep shell markings of lavender are very prominent at the larger end also.

Incubation being so far advanced, it was difficult to save them, in fact, one was broken, two cracked and the other two chipped in blowing.

The measurements in inches of the four eggs saved, are as follows:— .69 x .49, .68 x .49, .68 x .49, .68 x .50.

The fact that the eggs were almost at the point of hatch-

ing, and that a steady drizzle of rain was falling at the time, probably accounts for the extraordinary boldness of the female.

Dawson, in "The Birds of Ohio," states, "I am not aware of a nest's being definitely reported in the state. During the second week in June, birds were feeding full grown young in the ravines opening into the valley of the Hock-hocking, near Sugar Grove." This nest was found about one mile west of South Bloomingville, Hocking County, and is about fifteen miles (as the crow flies) south of Sugar Grove.

This, therefore, is probably the first nest "definitely reported in the state." The environment in this portion of Hocking County is evidently ideal for this species, as the land is cut up into deep ravines and valleys with corresponding steep, brush-overgrown hillsides. I heard several singing males the same day that the nest was discovered, but could not locate another nest.