

ensis) (Henny and Wight, Fish & Wildl. Serv., Wildl. Resear. Rept. 2:229–250, 1972), Eastern Bluebird (Peakall, Living Bird 9:239–255, 1970), and several other passerines (Crowell and Rothstein, Ibis 123:42–50, 1981). The significant decline in clutch-size with date of clutch initiation for Brown-headed Nuthatches conforms with the usual pattern observed in passerines (Lack, Ecological Adaptations for Breeding in Birds, London, England, 1968).

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A record of ground nesting by the Hermit Warbler.—On 15 May 1979, a single Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*) ground nest was discovered 1.6 km west of Castella, Shasta Co., California. The nest, which contained five eggs, was located under the litter in a pocket formed by basal branching of a hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*). Overstory vegetation consisted of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) topped by California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*).

An adult female was sitting on the nest at time of discovery and allowed one of us (CRM) to approach <1 m before she flew. She did not move far. Soon, a male bird flew in with a green caterpillar which he offered to his mate. The female, apparently preoccupied with the presence of the observer near her nest, declined the meal, and the male ate the caterpillar. A visit to the nest 2 days later revealed two newly hatched chicks and three eggs. No further visits were made to the nest.

We are unaware of any other records documenting ground nesting in the species, and our literature search included the North American Nest Record Program at Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology. Cogswell (pp. 144–146 in *The Warblers of America*, Griscom and Sprunt, eds., The Devin-Adair Company, New York, New York, 1957) reported the nest is nearly always located in conifers, saddled on horizontal branches at moderate heights (6.1–12.2 m) but varying from 0.6–15.2 m.

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