

## Summer Birds of Pocono.

BY JOHN D. CARTER.

THE following paper is intended to give an outline of our information regarding the summer birds of the Pocono district, Monroe Co., Penna., and includes some observations which have been published previously. Such a paper, of course, cannot be made exhaustive without growing into a volume and becoming exhausting. Many of the commoner species, whose habits are well known, are passed with very brief reference.

In every case where comprehensive statements are made, the reader should mentally add the reservation, "So far as the writer is aware."

It is freely admitted that our knowledge is very far from complete. Observations have nearly all been made during brief vacation trips. These have mostly fallen during June, July and August, with one in May. Nests of species which breed early have therefore been found seldom or not at all. This applies among others to the Chickadee and most of the hawks and owls. Large tracts have not been visited at all and only a few spots have been subjected to intensive search, so it is quite to be expected that other species will be found as local or occasional summer residents. Furthermore, most of our attention has been given to the rarer species, or those not found in more accessible parts of the Delaware watershed. The district therefore still awaits the microscopic examination of the ornithological gentlemen of leisure.

For convenience of reference, the birds in this list are arranged nearly according to standard practice. The Wood Duck is the only one of its family recorded from the Pocono district as a summer resident. No nests have been found and no broods of young have been discovered, so its breeding there remains conjectural.

Of the Herons, the Little Green, Great Blue and Night Heron are regular summer residents. I do not know that the nests of any of these have been reported. In 1916, three Egrets (*Herodias egretta*) spent several weeks at Pocono Lake. In 1917 one of the same species enlivened the landscape for a few days. No doubt these were stragglers from further south.

The Woodcock is a regular though not an abundant summer resident. It is not often seen except as it rises from the ground before one's feet and speeds away on whistling wings.

The Solitary Sandpiper is suspected of nesting occasionally and the Killdeer perhaps may do the same.

The Spotted Sandpiper scales close above the surface of the lakes, goes tipping along the shores and walks the half-submerged logs in search of food. Several years ago a nest was found on the shore of a lake between low and high water marks. Soon after its discovery, heavy rains set in, mingled at times with hail. The water level rose rapidly until the eggs were lifted from the nest. I took them from the cold water, wrapped them in a box, placed them in a coat pocket, and traveled for at least five hours. When the eggs were spread out at home, I was surprised to find that one of them contained a living chick which had pipped the shell and was striving to escape. Gentle artificial heat was applied, and by next morning I had as perfect a little Sandpiper as ever peeped.

There appear to be only one or two authentic records of the Bobwhite. It may therefore be classed as a mere straggler.

The Ruffed Grouse breeds abundantly, as is shown by the numerous broods of half-grown young which are found during the summer. A few nests have been discovered. One of them contained eggs as late as May 20. The brown, pointed eggs are laid in a depression in the leaves, usually beside a stump, log, or other protecting object. The sight of the anxious mother trailing over the ground in the effort to lead away from her precious brood, is one of the most pleasing which comes to the roamer of the woods.

The Ring-necked Pheasant has been reported a very few times. Doubtless the birds were stragglers from some locality where they had been introduced.

The Turtle Dove is met with occasionally, flying rapidly over some open space or alighted on the ground searching for food. Familiar as we are with finding their nests in lowland apple-orchards, it is something of a shock to discover one hidden away in the forest, apparently miles from any cultivated land. The fact that the sitting bird will leave the nest and tumble about over the ground, suggests that this species at one time may have nested on the ground regularly, as it is well known to do occasionally.

The nesting of the hawks and owls is largely a matter of inference. The Screech, Barred and Great Horned Owls have been heard or seen. None of them appear to be numerous.

The Osprey is occasionally seen, and the Bald Eagle much more frequently, throughout the summer. The Turkey Vulture has been noted a few times. No nesting sites of any of these have been reported.

The Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks are occasionally met with. One nest of the former and a family of the young of the latter have been reported. George Forsythe informs us that a Sharp-shin attacked and killed a Ruffed Grouse in his presence. Next day the same hawk captured a Ring-necked Pheasant. On the third day, returning to repeat its performances, its destructive career was closed by human intervention. In both the foregoing cases, the fatal injuries were inflicted upon the necks or heads of the victims.

The Broad-winged Hawk is sometimes seen circling above the forests, and more frequently its thin, shrill whistle indicates its presence.

The Red-shouldered Hawk is much more in evidence than any of the others. Its repeated mournful cry is often heard in the forests. Less frequently it may be seen perched on some point of vantage, passing from tree to tree in the clearings, or making beautiful circles above the lakes.

The Marsh Hawk is rather local, since most of the district is not adapted to its needs. In the meadows of Long Pond, however, it nests occasionally if not regularly. A visit to a nest found by the writer last summer may be worthy of description.

The year before, I had seen a pair of these birds flying at a

great elevation. The male was diving at the female. After a number of passes, she took a direct course for the great meadows which border the narrow pond. The male appeared to be satisfied with this, and at once ceased his coercive tactics. Using this incident as a clue, I went directly to the meadows, noting one of the hawks drifting about in their aimless way. Part of the surface had been burned over within a few months. Passing this I came to a wide expanse, thickly covered with grasses or sedges, high and low bush huckleberries and dwarf laurel.

Almost at once, the slaty blue male, balanced on his upturned wings, began to utter an alarm cry,—a cack, cack, cack, cack, repeated at frequent intervals. This seemed suspicious, for usually the Marsh Hawk is silent. Soon the female arrived from somewhere, and joined the male in maledictions upon the really harmless intruder. Her voice was more of a scream, although the syllables were similar to the male's. I do not know whether this is a constant difference or whether it may have been due to temporary excess of feminine indignation. Without delay, she began to charge. Starting about a hundred yards away, she flew straight at my face, turning up and passing over when about ten feet distant. I could plainly see the ring of feathers on her face, the yellow color of her eyes, and the yellow feet, with black claws, laid back below the tail.

Moving slowly in the direction from which she always came, I finally saw a mouldy-looking bunch of something, on the ground, and nearly hidden by the bushes. It took me a moment to realize the truth. That bunch was one of the young, covered with whitish down, through which the black and brown feathers were protruding in spots. Nearby on the ground were two others of the family, while the fourth rested on the nest. This was a grassy mound, much flattened, and nearly level on top.

The young all held motionless poses of defiance, mouths open and lead-colored eyes intently fixed. When one of them was vexed beyond endurance, it raised its wings, rose on its long legs, and doubtless did its best to convince me that I was in mortal danger of annihilation. During the half hour of my stay, the screaming mother did not cease to cut the air above my head.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo occurs only sparingly in the Pocono district. The Black-billed is much more numerous, and is more frequently heard than seen. Unless it flies across an open space, its slender form is hard to discover in the wealth of foliage. Singing at night is a well-marked habit of this species.

The Belted Kingfisher plies his trade up and down the streams and about the lakes in a manner too well known to merit description.

Of the woodpeckers, the Flicker is much the most abundant, nesting in the usual manner. The Downy is not very numerous: the Hairy rather more so. The work of the Pileated has been seen several times, though the bird itself has not been noted nearer than the forests of Pike County.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is the most interesting of the family. Its curious, whining cry may be heard occasionally in the woods and clearings. The nest-cavity is dug in dead stubs, often in those which are standing in water. It may be at any level from ten to sixty feet or more. Sometimes the hole is made in stubs which are so rotten that excavation is very simple and easy when once the hard exterior shell has been pierced. The opening sometimes has the shape of a rounded square. In other cases it appears as truly circular as the doorways of Downy and Hairy.

Close to one nest containing young, it was noted that the birds had attacked a living sweet-birch tree. Instead of the circular rows of small round holes, so often seen upon apple-trees, they had made much more serious injuries. Square-cornered holes as large as the end of one's finger, were dug side by side over considerable areas, extending right around the trunk. From these holes the aromatic juice was exuding. Attracted by this, Hummingbirds, butterflies, and certain insects not distinguishable, at a distance, from houseflies, were moving about. The value of this arrangement to the woodpeckers was evident when the parent bird was seen to alight on the spot and fill her beak with insects. Dropping down a few yards she transferred them to the young. Surely this was a labor-saving scheme of high merit. How few young birds are raised on flies flavored with wintergreen!

Other cases have been noted where similar restaurants were placed conveniently near the nest-cavity. If more extended observation shows this to be a constant feature of the nesting habits of the Sapsucker, it should receive more credit than it has, either for intelligence or else for exceptional good luck.

The Whip-poor-will probably holds the record as the bird best known by voice while least known by sight. No one who spends a few evenings out of doors during the proper season can fail to notice the loud emphatic call, repeated so many times in quick succession that the listener wonders why the bird does not succumb for want of breath. "Sad and shrill" may describe the notes for some people, but for me they are more suggestive of good times among the mountains than any other sound.

The bird itself may be seen sometimes as a lump in the wagon-road, in the dim light not distinguishable from a stone; until it suddenly and noiselessly vanishes away. Occasionally a Whip-poor-will rises from before one's feet in the day-time, is in sight for an instant, and then is lost among the trees. Under similar circumstances the Woodcock makes nearly the same appearance, but may be distinguished by the shrill whistling of its wings.

The chance to make the Whip-poor-will's acquaintance comes when its home is found. The two eggs are laid in the leaves which form the floor of the forest, apparently any spot which is sufficiently level will answer. The eggs are so light-colored that they are quite conspicuous. They rest about an inch apart so that the body of the brooding bird comes between them. During at least part of the time, one egg is held under each wing. The parent bird is not very shy at the nest, apparently relying on her protective coloring.

The Nighthawk is found, during the nesting season, in the more open sections where the eggs are placed on the bare ground. I have also noticed the birds diving and booming in one of the tracts where many old stumps stick up from quiet water. If the nest were near by, the top of a stump would seem to be the only place for it. Later in the summer they become more numerous, moving about in silent, straggling flocks.

The Chimney Swift is a bird which has been able to change its habits to utilize the improvements provided by civilization. The chimney now takes the place of the hollow tree as a nesting site. In the Pocono district there are not enough chimneys to meet the demand, so some of the Swifts resort to the barns. There the nests are attached to the boards forming the sides of the hay-mows, of course inside the building. The nests appear to be of the same construction as those built in chimneys.

The Hummingbird occurs rather sparingly at Pocono. So far as observed its habits are the ordinary ones, except as previously noted in the account of the Sapsucker.

The flycatchers of the Pocono district are unusually interesting, including all of the species that are normally found in eastern North America, except the Acadian Flycatcher.

The Phoebe is the same prosaic individual as always, found about bridges and near buildings. The Wood Pewee is not numerous.

The Great Crested Flycatcher may usually be found in or near the stumpy, wet regions, so much appreciated by the grackles (see below).

The Kingbird frequents the same localities and places its nest on the old stubs protruding from the water. The nests which I have seen have all been open to the sky. Sometimes they are within a few feet of the water. It is a question how they manage to conduct housekeeping in the midst of a colony of grackles. It is too hard to imagine the grackles observing any gentlemen's agreement not to eat eggs. They must realize that to come too near means the descent of a shrieking fury upon their backs. However that may be, I have never noticed any attempt on their part to molest the homes of the Kingbirds.

The Olive-sided Flycatcher occurs sparingly in suitable localities, but does not appear to be present every year. I have seen it to best advantage in a great clearing where a few tall dead trees are still standing. From the topmost point of one of these it sallies out for the passing insect, which it secures with a snap. At frequent intervals its splendid voice rings out: "Look, right

here!" The first note is rather weak, the last one is somewhat prolonged. It is thought that this call can be heard for a good half-mile. Another note resembles "Quip, quip." Careful search has not yet revealed the nest.

The Alder Flycatcher was one of the surprises when I first visited Pocono Lake. Although a meek and humble member of the avian community it has taken a large part of the time of the bird-hunters. It is by no means uncommon along bushy lake-shores and water-courses. It keeps pretty well out of sight for the most part, but sometimes mounts an exposed perch after the usual manner of flycatchers. Its notes are a "prep," and an unmusical production suggesting: "Squē squē érp." This is in the same class with the notes of the Acadian and Least Flycatchers, but is less abrupt than either.

The search for the nest was continued unsuccessfully for so many seasons that we were tempted to think that the Alder Flycatcher never had any nest at all, but carried its eggs about under its wings. Finally a little bunch of stuff was found, hidden away in a leafy bush about a foot from the ground. No birds appeared to have any interest in it, but it grew from day to day. At last, by watching it soon after sunrise, the Flycatcher was seen to claim it as her own. This nest met with disaster in some unknown way, after egg-laying had begun. Another was found nearby, several days later. This was probably a second attempt by the same pair of birds. A third nest was found in 1916. This one was not well hidden, being placed in an open spirea bush about four feet above the ground, over shallow water in a birch thicket. The nests were rather roughly built of dry grasses. The eggs resembled those of the Acadian Flycatcher.

The Least Flycatcher inhabits the more open, cultivated districts. It has received much less attention than its two near cousins.

Hidden away from ordinary observation by rhododendron thicket and a swamp, there are two small tracts which have yielded rich returns. There many of the spruces are rather small, but thick-leaved and dense. Nearby are well-grown forests of spruce and white pine. The ground is covered with

deep, wet sphagnum, growing in mounds. The presence of the wild cranberry and *Linnaea borealis* shows it to be in effect a cool northern bog. The sweet piping of the Chickadee, the slender little song of the Kinglet, the trill of the Nashville Warbler and the ringing song of the Olive-backed Thrush, are among the characteristic sounds.

Almost lost among the many louder voices, one may occasionally detect a weak double note and a little whistle, much like one of the Wood Pewee's notes, but shorter. It is made of two barely separable syllables, the second being the higher in pitch. It may be a good hour's work to trace these sounds to their source. In some dark recess among the spruces, on a low perch, you may detect a bright-eyed and dull-colored little fellow, with all the earmarks of a flycatcher. And so he is,—the Yellow-bellied. His nest is hidden in the steep side of one of the mounds of sphagnum, among the leaves of goldthread and cornel. The White-throated Sparrow and Junco use the same type of site occasionally. The Nashville Warbler is strongly suspected of doing the same thing. However, a number of nests undoubtedly belonging to the Flycatcher have been found. The eggs resemble those of its near relatives, the Alder and Acadian, and are quite unlike those of sparrow, junco or warbler.

The Prairie Horned Lark probably nests in some part of the district each year. During some seasons I have failed to note it at all. It frequents only the open and cultivated places.

In the woodlands, the miscellaneous calls of the Blue Jay are among the common sounds. The birds are so numerous that it seems surprising that any of the small species can succeed in raising their families, especially since the Jays doubtless have the able assistance of the Crows in their work of housebreaking. The most favored nesting-site appears to be in a small spruce tree. The nests are usually empty before the arrival of the summer ornithologist.

Nothing is recorded of the Crows of Pocono which entitles them to more than passing mention.

Wm. L. Baily reports the Cowbird as occasional at Pocono Manor. I have not met with it in other parts of the district nor

have I seen any of its eggs in the many nests of warblers, vireos and sparrows which have been examined.

Only a comparatively few spots on the plateau are well suited to the needs of the Red-winged Blackbirds. In these few spots they are found in rather small numbers. They nest in tussocks of grass or sedge, possibly also in some of the thinly-clad mowing-fields. Their habits, so far as observed, are in no way remarkable. At Long Pond and one other locality, I have heard them utter a note so different from any which I ever heard elsewhere, that at first I could make no guess as to its source. Is this an indication of a difference which might be magnified into the basis for a geographical race?

The Meadow Lark is found only in the cultivated sections, where its habits appear entirely normal.

The Orchard Oriole occurs so rarely that it probably should be in the class of stragglers.

The Baltimore Oriole is more numerous, sometimes straying into the heavy woods, where it seems strangely out of place.

The Grackles of the Pocono region are said, by those who have taken specimens, to be of the unmixed purple form. Their habits, however, are appreciably different, from those of their lowland brethren. Avoiding the wide-spread forest entirely, and the cultivated lands less completely, they congregate for nesting purposes at the various lakes which dot the surface of the plateau. A clear, open sheet of water is not especially attractive to them, but where dead stubs rise from the water and half-rotted logs and stumps strew the surface, they assemble into veritable colonies.

Their nests are placed in cavities in the dead stubs. Only one nest among the fifty or more which have come under my observation was placed in any other position. This one was in a small birch which was growing from the top of a dead stub, entirely surrounded by water and rising about four feet above it. This nest was of heavier construction than those placed in cavities. Holes made by flickers are quite acceptable, as well as those formed by decay and weathering. Holes at any level are used, from the highest productions of the diligent flickers, to those just clear of the water.

When foraging for their nestlings, the old birds devote most of their attention to the half-submerged logs and stumps. Here they seem to find what they desire close to the water's edge. Examination of these places reveals numbers of the larval shells of dragon fly and stone fly. In addition to fruits, which doubtless form part of the provender, it seems likely that these larvae furnish much of the food for the hungry broods.

One of the most attractive songs at Pocono is that of the Purple Finch. The birds are numerous and the males give their sweet and powerful warble at frequent intervals, either from some prominent perch or while on the wing. The nests are placed in spruce trees, either on horizontal branches, or in the very tops of the trees, where they may be absolutely invisible from the ground.

Wm. L. Baily reports a few English Sparrows at Pocono Manor. I have not seen them at Pocono Lake.

The American Crossbill maintains its reputation for erratic behavior. During one or two summers, several years ago, it was fairly numerous. Since then I have not seen it. The undulating flight, accompanied by a chirping or clicking call, and the practice of hanging nearly upside down, assist in identification. They tear to pieces the cones of the spruce when these are so green and tough that it surely seems like working for a living.

The Goldfinch is found in the cultivated and more open sections, avoiding the heavy woodland. The same may be said of the Vesper Sparrow, although of course the latter is a ground bird, frequenting the fields and pastures.

The Savannah Sparrow is found in a few spots, notably at Long Pond. Here, its rather weak but not unpleasing song may be heard in the fields and the adjoining bushy pastures.

The Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows may be found occasionally in the Pocono region. Conspicuous alike both in song and appearance, the White-throated Sparrow is easily the most notable of its tribe. The sweetly plaintive 'peabody' song and sharp alarm chirp are common sounds in suitable localities. These are the bushy clearings, rather than the cultivated land or dense forest. The nest is placed on the ground,

at the root of a small tree, or partly sheltered by a log or bunch of brush. Less frequently it is placed on a mound of sphagnum in a damper locality. The eggs are sometimes clearly spotted on a greenish-white ground, but are usually clouded with diffuse brown blotches.

The familiar Chipping Sparrow frequents the cultivated regions and open park-like tracts. The nest is frequently placed on the horizontal boughs of the red spruce.

Sharing the clearings with its larger White-throated cousin, the Field Sparrow plays its humble part, placing its nest on the ground, among dry ferns or other shelter.

The Junco is more generally distributed over the plateau than most of the birds. One may catch the flash of its white tail feathers and hear its simple song almost anywhere. The nest may be placed on level ground, under the cover of huckleberry bushes or other growth, in the side of one of the numerous earthy mounds, tucked under a mossy log or the edge of a bank, or sunk in sphagnum after the manner of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. One very unusual nest was found last summer, among the horizontal branches of a spruce tree eighteen feet above the ground. This nest did not prove to be a success. It was so disarranged, probably by the swaying of the branches, that the birds deserted it before the set of eggs was complete.

The Song Sparrow is the same familiar, lovable bird that it is everywhere, found chiefly in the open sections and along the lakes and streams. The nest is usually on the ground, sometimes hidden in moss. Some have been noted which were placed in tussocks, after the custom of the Swamp Sparrow. One was found built against the trunk of a spruce tree, and supported by small dead branches.

The Swamp Sparrow inhabits the same infrequent marshes as the Red-winged Blackbirds, placing its nest in grassy tussocks. The song is of the same type as the Junco's, but distinguishable by a difference in the tone of voice.

Perhaps the most numerous bird on the plateau is the Chewink. In the great tracts of scrubby oaks he is most prominent, calling "che-wee" to the passerby, or repeating his loud "Leap year, see-e-e-e" from some prominent perch. The nest

is usually placed on the ground, partly concealed by brush or brushy growth.

The Indigo-bird occurs rather sparingly in the more open sections.

The sweet, leisurely warble of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak may often be heard coming from well-grown deciduous trees or from lower growth, but not often from the grooves of pines or spruces. Almost the same may be said of the rougher, more halting song of the Scarlet Tanager. Although so strikingly colored, neither of these birds is at all conspicuous on account of their keeping so well hidden among the leaves.

Although I do not know of any nesting colonies of Purple Martins nearer than Portland and Stroudsburg, the birds are frequently seen flying about over the plateau.

Following their temporary sojourn in southeastern Pennsylvania, about thirty years ago, the Cliff Swallows appear to have definitely settled upon Pocono as one of their summer homes. They go squeaking about, especially over the lakes, and make their curious mud nests in rows under the eaves of barns. A colony of thirty nests was counted last summer.

The Barn and Rough-winged Swallows are met with regularly. Nothing unusual regarding their habits has been recorded.

The Bank Swallow is of doubtful status. I know of no nesting colonies in the district.

The Tree Swallows resort especially to the stumpy parts of the lakes, described in the account of the grackles. The nests are placed in holes in the stubs, at any distance above the water. One may often look into them from a boat. A lining of feathers is a normal part of the household furniture. The birds visit their nests freely while the observer is only a few feet away.

Moving about from tree to tree with their weak, beady calls, or perched on the tops of the spruces with crests erect, the Cedar Waxwings are as much in evidence as such quiet-colored and gentle-mannered birds well could be. The rather bulky nests are placed preferably in the pitch pines, on horizontal branches, often over a wagon-road. They are sometimes difficult to distinguish from chance aggregations of pine-needles.

Of the Vireos, the White-eyed has been noted once in early

summer, and the Red-eyed is numerous and voluble as usual. The most attractive of the family is the Blue-headed or Solitary. Its sweet song, in form like the Yellow-throated but in a voice of its own, may be heard almost anywhere in mixed or hardwood forest. The nest is suspended below the fork of a small branch a few feet from the ground. Hemlock and spruce trees appear to be preferred.

The Warblers of Pocono have received perhaps more than their share of attention. Fourteen or more species nest there, affording an attractive field for study.

The Black and White Warbler is fairly numerous, revealing its presence among the trees by its song which differs from that of most of the warblers, in that the notes are so nearly all alike. A variation is given occasionally, however, which makes one think a moment before naming the author. The tone is thin and shrill. The nest is placed on the ground, often concealed under a stick or other protection.

The Golden-winged Warbler has been reported a few times, and the Brewster's once during migration. Their status as breeders is not known.

The Nashville Warbler is one of the surprises of the region. Almost as numerous as on the slopes of the White Mountains, one meets with a singing male every mile or so in suitable country. Were it not for the song, the bird might remain undetected indefinitely, for one harder to see is scarcely to be found outside of the rail family. The bird has no striking color marks, and keeps itself closely hidden among the leaves. When one does catch a glimpse of the little fellow, he is very likely to fly away for several hundred yards, so that the entire search must be begun again. The absence of black spots, the bluish color of the sides of the face and the yellow under parts, are the available field-marks. The spot on the crown is practically never visible. The song begins like that of the Black and White Warbler, suddenly changes in the middle and finishes in the tune of the Worm-eating Warbler or Chipping Sparrow. I have noticed no variation in several thousand renderings. Two or three nests have been found. The writer was not fortunate enough to see any of these, so can give no

description of them. I have searched for a great many hours and have attained only the measure of success implied in finding an empty nest, believed to belong to this species. The bird frequents clearings grown up with small white birches, and also wet, boggy places where the ground is strewn with logs and stumps, and covered with sphagnum. It is suspected that the nests are hidden in both types of localities, in the moss or under some concealing object.

The Parula Warbler is frequently heard singing one or other of its two buzzing songs, among the spruces. For some years there was much question as to where the nest might be placed, for there is but little hanging moss (*Usnea*) in the district, and this seldom grows long enough to accommodate a nest. The question was settled by Geo. H. Stuart, 3rd, who discovered a nest frailly made of dry grass stems, among the twigs pendant below the bough of a thick spruce. The tree stood in an open location, only a few yards from a wagon road where people and automobiles passed frequently.

The Yellow Warbler is found rather sparingly in the cultivated sections, seldom, if ever venturing into the thick woods.

In or near the dense rhododendron thickets, and less frequently in general woodland, one may hear the song of the Black-throated Blue Warbler,—a series of three or four buzzing “z-e-e-e-s.” The nest is usually placed in a crotch of a rhododendron within a few feet of the ground, so hidden that it is not visible until the thick, green leaves are parted.

The Magnolia Warbler is probably the most numerous of its genus in the well-grown woods. The song is in two quite different forms, but in the same voice. A peculiar call-note is in two syllables, like “skee-zick.” I know of no call made by any other warbler which at all resembles it. The nest is usually placed on horizontal boughs of a spruce, a few feet from the ground.

The Chestnut-sided Warbler is numerous in the tracts of scrubby oaks and second growth of other kinds. Both of its two standard songs are strikingly similar to those of the Yellow Warbler. The authorized versions are not always followed. The nest is a neatly-made cup, placed in the crotch of bush or sapling near the ground.

The brilliant Blackburnian Warbler is common among the well-grown spruces. The song is characterized by the exceptional thinness of the last few notes. Sometimes this feature is not very well marked. The nest is doubtless placed well up, in evergreens. I have not yet succeeded in finding one.

The drawling, though very attractive, notes of the Black-throated Green Warbler are frequently heard, coming from high up in large white pines. One form of the song may be indicated by the words "Trees, trees, wavering trees," the other by "Trees, trees, trees, tree, so shady." A nest, found last summer, was placed in the crotch of an ascending, dead branch of a large white pine, about twenty feet from the ground, and about the same distance from the trunk. There was no living foliage near it and none above, except the crown of the tree. This nest was found by noticing the female pulling at a string entangled in a tree. When the string was cut into suitable lengths the bird promptly carried them to the unfinished nest. The set of eggs was not complete until about July 4th.

The one or two records of the Pine Warbler leave the status of the bird uncertain.

The Ovenbird is numerous in well grown woodland. The nesting and other habits appear quite normal for the species. The writer has found several nests, some of them well concealed, others not so.

The Northern Water Thrush is found along the dashing streams and in the swamps where the current becomes lost among fallen trees and mossy stumps. The nest is well hidden under a root or overhanging bank. The large assemblage of dead leaves which often marks the nest of the Louisiana Water Thrush, does not seem to be a feature of the home of *noveboracensis*. The difficulty in distinguishing the two water thrushes, in spite of the field marks which are supposed to be useful, renders the status of *motacilla* doubtful.

The most notable variation in the habits of the Maryland Yellowthroat, is in the location of the nest. Bunches of grass are used occasionally, but a more usual site is in low-growing huckleberry bushes. The nest is frequently entirely hidden until

the twigs are parted. The birds often sit close, and hurry away as the nest-hunter's stick passes over the spot.

The Yellow-breasted Chat may sometimes be heard singing early in the season. Later it becomes silent or moves entirely away. In the absence of nesting records, its place in the breeding avifauna is not secure.

If all warblers warbled as well as the Canadian, their name would not be a misnomer. Its sweet, rapid song comes sparkling from the wet thickets with a vigor not common in the family. The nest is well concealed under a projecting bank or root, usually near water.

Although numerous in the valley at Stroudsburg, the Redstart is seldom seen on the Pocono Plateau during summer. This contributes considerably to the peace of mind of the bird-student; for in my judgment, of all the warbler notes, those of the Redstart are the hardest to keep straight. This difficulty is not lessened by the fact that the young males sing freely while still in the garb of the female.

The Catbird is numerous, nesting abundantly in small spruces or other thick places.

The Brown Thrasher is less common, being found in the cultivated and scrub-covered districts. One or two nests have been found, as flat on the ground as a chewink's.

The Carolina Wren has been recorded once and the Winter Wren a few times. The former is probably accidental, the latter irregular or local.

The House Wren is partly the civilized little fellow so familiar about our buildings and partly an inhabitant of the remote clearings and stumpy tracts where he shares the cavities with bluebirds, grackles and tree swallows.

Samuel N. Rhoads reports the Brown Creeper at Pocono Lake. In several seasons there, the writer has not met with it.

Of the two Nuthatches, the Red-breasted is rather more numerous than the White-breasted. The deliberate "ank, ank, ank, ank" of the former is a characteristic sound of the heavy forest. Both birds probably finish their nesting before the summer visitors arrive to observe them.

The Black-capped Chickadee is a loveable little bird, so ready

to answer to a call, and so bright and confiding at all times. His sweet whistle of two or three syllables seems to me one of the choicest sounds of the northern woods.

During the summer of 1917, two pairs of Acadian Chickadees were noted. The pair at Pocono Lake seemed very much interested in an old stump, as reported by J. Fletcher Street; although one of the birds was seen by the writer a little later, exhaustive search failed to reveal a nest. These birds were probably left-overs from the unusual southward incursions of the previous winter.

The search for the nest of the Golden-crowned Kinglet for a long time seemed almost hopeless. But there are always to be found those who are ready to spend hours in trying to penetrate the secret places of the impenetrable spruces, for the sake of the little hope that may remain. It was therefore with peculiar satisfaction that late in June, 1916, I happened to glance at the one right spot in many thousands. There in the twigs pendant from a spruce bough was a little bunch of moss. On climbing the tree and drawing the branch around, it was clear that the bunch was the beginning of a nest. By coming soon after sunrise the birds were found at work. When finished the nest was about as large as one's fist, lined with feathers, and with very thick walls. The set of eight eggs was complete about July 4th. The Kinglet's song does not seem to be well known even to those who should have heard it often. It is a thin-voiced, simple performance, five or six "te" notes rising in the scale, followed by a rapid, descending trill. The quality is somewhat like that of the the thinnest notes of the Blackburnian Warbler.

The Wood Thrush is so infrequent on the Pocono Plateau that it may almost be considered a straggler. Others of the family amply make up for its absence.

The Veery is abundant, frequenting general woodland, and more particularly, low swampy and boggy spots. The song seems always to suggest something spiral or whirling, and is composed of four or five notes, similar but not just alike, of a peculiar mixture of gentle rasping and metallic ringing. Most persons I think are disappointed when they first hear it. This feeling soon wears off and gives place to increasing fondness.

The Veery's nest is on the ground, not sunk in it as the Hermit's normally is, either in swampy places or on the drier woodland floor. The eggs are practically undistinguishable from those of the Hermit Thrush.

The Olive-backed Thrush is not generally distributed. In spots where the forest is not very tall, but rather open with a good growth of thick, young spruces, it may be heard, especially at evening, pouring out a penetrating though not very loud song. It seems to me a mistake to compare it with the song of the Hermit, lest it be thought that it is something like it. Entirely different both in voice and method of delivery, the two should be mentioned together only by way of contrast. The utterance is the same every time, in tone more like that of the Veery. The notes are six or seven in rapid sequence, slightly burred, but beautifully resonant. The birds are difficult to observe. The nest is placed in small spruces, close to the trunk, a few feet from the ground.

The Hermit Thrush is easily the most notable songster of the region. It is usual for those who attempt description of the song to exhaust their superlatives and still fail to make one who has never heard it, realize what it is. In method it is similar to the Wood Thrush's but the higher pitch gives it a quality of exaltation peculiarly its own. The bird frequently employs three variations which are given in order. At Pocono Lake the ground is broken by numberless mounds, caused by the uprooting of the forest by a tornado about a century ago. These mounds are favorite nesting sites of the Hermit Thrush. The nests are usually set into the side of the mound. Others are placed under huckleberries or almost anywhere in the woods.

The Robin is common, but its morning song is by no means the overwhelming chorus that it is in the lowlands. Some of the birds are found about the houses; others are wood birds, nesting in pines and other trees, remote from civilization.

The ever lovely Bluebird is found in the open places and clearings, where it nests in holes in stumps and dead trees. Some resort to the stumpy lakes where they mingle with grackles, kingbirds and tree swallows.

Having passed the summer birds of Pocono in review, it

must be evident to any one who has had sufficient patience to wade through the list, that they make up an unusually diversified avifauna. They include such southern forms as the Chat and Great Crested Flycatcher, with northern ones like the Sapsucker and the Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers, the Acadian Chickadee from "down east" and the Prairie Horned Lark from the west. However tiresome they may appear in description, such localities where faunas mix, are always interesting in actuality.