

killed was the exact counterpart of the young of the Blue-winged Yellow Warbler, with its yellow breast and white wing-bars.

In all probability the father of this interesting family was a specimen of *Helminthophila pinus*.—A. K. FISHER, M. D., *Sing Sing, New York*.

The Loggerhead Shrike in New Hampshire.—On the morning of the 16th of April of this year an unfamiliar bird-note — as of a Robin with a cleft tongue — attracted my attention to a clump of balsams (*Abies balsamea*) in the yard of our nearest neighbor. Here, after a few moments of hide and seek, I discovered the birds to be a pair of these Shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*) although at first I quite naturally supposed them to be *Lanius borealis*, with whose acquaintance I have been little favored. For the next ten days the birds were seen continually as they boldly flew about the houses gathering materials for their nest. This they built close to the trunk of one of the balsams, at a distance of about 20 feet from the ground and scarcely more than that from the upper windows of the house. On the 27th one egg was found, and, to anticipate any possible unnatural actions on the part of the birds, was taken. The female, however, soon resumed her oviparous duties so that on May 4 we secured five more eggs. But meanwhile doubts had arisen as to the species; accordingly the birds were shot and have since been identified by the editor of this Journal as *Lanius ludovicianus*.

The nest, which is large for the size of the birds, is composed outwardly of twigs rather loosely joined together by wads of worsted and twine; the inner portion, however, is quite compact, being composed of dried grasses and roots finely interwoven with feathers and soft bits of worsted. The depth of the nest is two inches; its diameter is three inches.

The eggs are of a grayish-white ground-color, entirely covered with small blotches of a sandy-brown of several shades, darkest at the large end. The eggs measure (in inches) 1.01 × .70; .94 × .74; .98 × .70; .96 × .70; .96 × .70; .98 × .66.

While under my observation the Shrikes did not evince a particularly savage or quarrelsome disposition; when the nest was building they enjoyed driving away the Robins, whose customary abode they had pre-empted, yet neither in the trees near at hand, nor in an apple tree about 300 yards distant which the male made his look-out, did we see any evidences of impaled victims. They frequently alighted in the grass, apparently in search of grasshoppers and crickets. Their vocal range was broad; but to our ears disclosed a painful lack of culture; save for an occasional liquid, far-away, tone, like a bit of blue sky seen through angry clouds, — their notes were very harsh and discordant. In concluding I will say that another season will doubtless add further evidence, and sufficient, for the complete establishment of the fact that *L. ludovicianus* is a regular resident in this locality. —EDWIN BRANT FROST, *Hanover, N. H.*

Breeding of *Loxia americana* in the District of Columbia. — In Vol. I of 'The Auk,' p. 292. Mr. Ridgway cites the occurrence of *Loxia americana*