

ous years had two and three eggs respectively. The former was a full clutch, as the bird was sitting.

The outside structure of the nests being principally green moss made them comparatively inconspicuous, in spite of their large size, as they were usually saddled on a limb that was completely covered with the same moss.

There is generally a considerable admixture of damp leaf mold in the foundation of the nest, but not in the walls. The average dimensions are about six and a half inches for outside diameter, and three and a half across the cavity.

The ground color of the eggs is rather lighter than in those of *Merula migratoria*; the spots vary from raw umber to dark sepia, and are usually rather sparsely scattered, rather denser towards the larger end but never forming a distinct zone.

The shape is usually a long oval. One set ($\frac{3}{8}$) seems to present the extreme variation in size, the eggs measuring $1.20 \times .80$ in., $1.21 \times .72$, and $1.15 \times .73$ inches.

In no instance were two pairs of birds found breeding near each other; the nests were about half a mile apart. The proximity of the nest is usually betrayed by the actions of the birds, which flutter from tree to tree uttering a peculiar chatter not heard at other times.

Before closing these disjointed notes it might be as well to record the irruption of the Varied Thrush during the present winter (1904-05). During other winters a few may be seen, even in the coldest weather, throughout the district west of the Cascades. This winter they fairly swarm; and reports from Okanagan show they are even wintering in the cold interior of the Province. Large numbers of Audubon's Warbler are also wintering in the lower Fraser Valley, though the winter is a fairly severe one. — ALLAN BROOKS, *Sumas, B. C.*

An Unrecognized Subspecies of *Bellona cristatus*.— In his 'Descriptions of New Species of Birds of the Families Trochilidæ and Tetraonidæ, (Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci., I, p. 50, 1877) Mr. Lawrence described a new hummingbird under the name of *Orthorhynchus emigrans* as follows:

"*Male*.— The basal half of the crest is of a shining emerald-green, the terminal half deep reddish-violet; the upper plumage is dark grass-green; tail-feathers blackish-purple, the two central ones washed with green; quills light purple; throat smoky-gray; breast and abdomen smoky-black; bill and feet black.

"Length, $3\frac{1}{4}$ in.; wing, $1\frac{7}{8}$; tail, $1\frac{1}{8}$; bill from termination of frontal feathers, $\frac{7}{16}$

"A younger specimen, but with the crest fully developed, has the throat whitish-ash, and the outer two lateral feathers [rectrices?] tipped with the same. . . .

"*Habitat*.— Venezuela. Type in my collection. [Now in the American Museum of Natural History, New York.]

"Remarks.—This is a close ally of *O. cristatus* from Barbadoes; the two colors of the crest are equally divided in both, but they differ in shades of coloring; the green in the new species is without the strong golden tinge existing in the other, and the violet is rather deeper in color, which color it retains in all positions — whereas in some lights that of *O. cristatus* is greenish; the upper plumage of the latter is lighter and of a golden-green; the new species is also rather smaller, with a longer bill. They differ strikingly in the ends of the tail-feathers, these being obtusely pointed in the new species, and rounded in the other."

On working up a large series of these hummingbirds from Barbados, the Grenadines, and Grenada, the difference between those from Barbados and those from the other islands at once struck me, and I found that the above description of *O. emigrans* exactly fitted the Barbados bird. Although Linnæus's type of *Trochilus cristatus* probably came from Barbados (as that island was at that time much better known), there is nothing to make us absolutely sure, and his description (*Syst. Nat.*, I, p. 192, 1766) is applicable to either form. Lawrence's description, on the other hand, could not have been taken from a Grenada specimen, as he brings out the characters which my study of a large series collected by myself on Barbados and others from Grenada and the Grenadines have shown separate the two forms. His locality "Venezuela" is undoubtedly erroneous, as the genus is purely West Indian, occurring only from Porto Rico south to Grenada. The fact that he compares his new species with a specimen from "Barbadoes" is of no significance, as Barbados is the great shipping port of these islands, where merchandise is transhipped from intercolonial craft (trading between the less important colonies) to ocean going boats.

The coloration of the crest of this hummingbird, in common with the metallic colors of many other species, changes somewhat with age (after death), but in a series of fresh specimens the differences exhibited between the birds from these two localities is very marked. I have not been able to examine any old skins from Barbados, but I have no doubt that could be instantly distinguished (by the more violet color of the posterior half of the crest) from others from Grenada or the Grenadines.

Bellona cristatus will therefore stand, with its two forms, as follows:—

***Bellona cristatus* (Linn.).**

HABITAT. Barbados, the Grenadines, and Grenada.

***Bellona cristatus cristatus* (Linn.).**

HABITAT. The Grenadines and Grenada.

***Bellona cristatus emigrans* (Law.).**

HABITAT. Barbados.—AUSTIN K. CLARK, *Boston, Mass.*

Michigan Randoms.—Opened the oölogical season with a set of two eggs of the Great Horned Owl on March 1, followed by three of the Bald Eagle on the 13th; then the usual run of Red-tail, Red-shoulder, Cooper's, Sparrow Hawk, etc., during April and May, and a "wind up" with the Warblers in June, the rarest find being two sets of Cerulean.