

speckled at the greater end chiefly, where there was more or less of a ring on a background of grayish white.

This nesting of *D. coronata* at Webster, Mass., in southern Worcester County, on the Connecticut State line, in transition country with fauna almost purely Alleghenian, is of interest. It may be remarked *en passant* that within one-quarter of a mile of this white pine grove, where the Myrtle Warbler had its nest, was a wooded laurel swamp with scattered black spruce, where a Hooded Warbler was in full song (May 23) and a pair of its cousins, *Sylvania canadensis*, were building a nest.

While *D. coronata* has long been known as a summer resident of many of the elevated parts of Massachusetts, although less numerous than either *D. maculosa* or *D. cerulescens*, this Webster breeding of the bird appears to be the first recorded case of a nest of the species in Massachusetts.—
JOHN A. FARLEY, Malden, Mass.

The Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) in the Catskills.—Santa Cruz Park is a little community of cottages in the Catskill Mountain woods, a little southwest of the center of Greene County, having an altitude of about 2000 feet. The cottages harmonize well with their surroundings and are not sufficiently obtrusive to seriously affect the natural environment of the mountains. While deciduous trees have rather the upper hand, there is a very formidable rivalry of spruce, balsam, and hemlock.

Arriving here late in May for a month of bird study, almost the first bird which demanded our serious attention was the Cerulean Warbler, hitherto unknown to us.

Between May 29 and June 28, hardly a day passed without giving this evasive bird more or less of our attention, sometimes amounting to several hours in the course of the day.

A bird more difficult to observe I have rarely if ever met with. His life seemed to be confined almost entirely to the tops of the tallest deciduous trees, where he would generally feed, with apparent design, on the side most remote from the would-be observer, exhibiting a wariness not expected on the part of a warbler, and finally leaving the tree, the first intimation of his departure being a more distant song. He never remained in the same tree top more than eight or ten minutes at a time and yet rarely ventured out of hearing distance from the center of his range. Fortunately, he would sometimes take a perch on a bare twig and sing for several minutes, but the perch was always high and generally with the sky as a poor background for observation. Had it not been for the almost incessant singing, being heard almost constantly from daybreak until nearly dark, the task of identification would have seemed hopeless.

The musical exercises of the bird consisted of an alternation of two distinctly different songs, so different indeed that until the bird was caught in the act we never for a moment suspected a single authorship. One song suggested slightly that of the Magnolia Warbler but rather softer, four syllables, though not quite so well defined as in the Magnolia. The other,

for want of something better, might be compared with the song of the Parula Warbler, a short buzzing trill rising in the scale, much louder and less lispy than the song of the Parula. The songs were each of about one second duration, rendered approximately eight or ten times per minute. Altogether the performance was quite musical, in sweetness far above the average warbler song. These two songs were generally alternated with clock-like regularity, though occasionally the bird preferred to dwell upon one or other of his selections for the greater part of the day. Like the Blackpoll Warbler and some others, the beak was opened very wide while singing, a great help in connecting bird and song.

The fact that the bird was so closely confined to a very restricted area gave us great hope of finding a nest, which hope, however, was not realized. Neither did we succeed in identifying a female, but on the 27th of June, the day before we were obliged to leave, our bird was seen carrying food in his beak, which was rather good circumstantial evidence that the Cerulean Warbler was breeding in the Catskills.—S. HARMSTED CHUBB, *New York City*.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus l. ludovicianus*) Nesting in Rhode Island.

— On August 1 I arrived for a few weeks stay in Bristol, R. I., and at once was attracted by the notes of a Carolina Wren from a swampy thicket behind the house on Metacom Avenue where I was living. On August 2 I secured a glimpse of both parents and one of the young. This is, I believe, the second record for this species in Bristol, and the fifth for the State, though I have not followed the avifauna of the State for twenty years, and other records may have been made.—R. HEBER HOWE, JR., *Thoreau Museum of Natural History, Concord, Mass.*

A Short-billed Marsh Wren Colony in Central New Hampshire.—

On July 17, 1919, I found a small colony of *Cistothorus stellaris*, probably not numbering over six pairs, in a small and not very wet meadow in Sandwich, N. H. The wrens were in full song. I saw two birds with food in their bills, but was unable to learn whether the young were in or out of the nest, for, although I found five nests, none was occupied, and one was built in 1918. The other four were all fresh made, and green as grass could make them, but were all "fake nests."

Their nests, as a rule, were set nearer the ground than the many nests of the species that I have found in Massachusetts; nor were they in hummocks, which may be explained by the fact that in this meadow there were no hummocks. Two or three of the nests were supported in part by narrow-leaved cat-tails, together with the usual fine grass, instead of by fine grass exclusively, as is so often the case, particularly when a hummock is chosen for a site.

Scarcely more than two miles away, in a sphagnum swamp of mixed growth, where considerable spruce and less balsam grew, a Tennessee Warbler sang incessantly in the dead top of a maple.