

these nests were typical, and were located in low land in the immediate vicinity of Allenhurst.

40. **Polioptila cærulea cærulea.** BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.— The nest of the Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher is among the handsomest specimens of bird architecture. No other species of bird nesting in the south, not even excepting the Hummingbird, constructs a home of such exquisite proportions and beautiful workmanship. This species is locally distributed in the county, being confined principally to heavily timbered swamps, and as a rule nests at considerable heights. On May 3, after long search, I located a nest in a large gum growing in water and in the center of a dense swamp near Allenhurst. It was placed at a height of thirty-two feet, and contained five fresh eggs. Another nest, noted June 22, twenty-three feet high in an ash tree on the edge of the same swamp, contained four apparently heavily incubated eggs. Both nests were saddled on horizontal limbs, and were composed of fine, hair-like rootlets and dried grasses interwoven with plant down, lined with small feathers. They were deeply cupped, shaped like a high cone, and had the entire exterior ornamented with lichens.

41. **Sialia sialis sialis.** BLUEBIRD.— The Bluebird is decidedly a woodland species throughout the county, and is only occasionally seen about populated places, at least during the breeding season. The many burnt-out districts and cut-over lands, in which are numerous stumps and dead trees, afford the bird ideal nesting sites. As a result of these favorable conditions, Bluebirds are abundant in the county. The birds begin nesting early, as I have noted full sets of eggs on April 2. Other dates are April 17, four fresh eggs; April 25, four well-feathered young; May 1, four fresh eggs, and May 18, five eggs. Four eggs comprise the usual clutch, although sets of five are not rare. I have found the nest of this species placed in a slight depression on top of a low stump, although it is rare that deviations from the birds' habit of nesting in holes in stumps excavated by woodpeckers are noted. The nests examined by me were constructed entirely of grasses and rootlets, lined with a few feathers, the material evidently having been hurriedly placed in the hole selected. These nests were in deserted woodpecker holes at heights varying from three to ten feet.—W. J. ERICHSON, *Savannah, Ga.*

Data on the Age of Birds. November 8, 1919, will mark the twentieth anniversary of the formal opening of the New York Zoological Park. In an article in the 'Zoological Society Bulletin' for May, 1919, on 'Our Oldest Specimens,' Raymond L. Ditmars states (p. 61), "No specimen of the bird collection has survived the Park's opening day, although there is a Griffon Vulture living in the collection that has been on exhibition nearly seventeen years, and several of our pelicans have been with us for a period slightly over sixteen years." In this connection it is interesting to recall an article 'On the Comparative Ages to which Birds Live,' by J. H. Gurney,

which appeared in 'The Ibis' for January, 1899, and was reprinted in 'The Osprey' for June of the same year. This article contained data on the longevity of 75 species, more than two-thirds of which exceeded 20 years, and ten of which reached the age of 50 years or more. The oldest birds mentioned in the list (omitting doubtful records) were a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and a Domestic Goose, each of which attained the age of 80 years. Only five North American species were included in Gurney's list, and apparently data on the ages of our native birds are still very meager.—T. S. PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*