

others forming.—JOHN WILLIAM MOYER, *Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois.*

Two Unusual Nesting Sites of the Carolina Junco.—Having made something of a study of the nesting habits of the Carolina Junco (*Junco hyemalis carolinensis*) during summers spent in the mountains of western North Carolina where this form is abundant, the writer has published notes on this subject in former issues of 'The Auk.' Two highly unusual nesting sites came under his observation during this past summer and seem worthy of notice.

The first of these was discovered in early July the nest being placed on a rafter of a garage. Three other nests in normal situations were found on the place inside of a week, all of which were under banks. The garage nest was identical with that of a Phoebe in regard to situation. A prominent item of building material was a strand of small rope, knotted at one end. This dangled a foot or so below the rafter. In all the writer's experience with scores of nests of this bird, it was the first found anywhere than under the overhang of a bank, or in a small thickly growing evergreen. The garage nest contained young on the point of flight, the adult was seen to feed them several times.

Even stranger than the first was the situation of the other nest. This was built in a fern basket on the porch of a large house, a porch much frequented by the family and visitors. The basket was not of the swinging type but stood upon an iron stand immediately to one side of the doorway to the living room. The stand was literally less than a foot from it. The plants in it were luxurious and the bird could only be seen on the nest by looking closely. The nest was sunk into the earth of the basket and contained four eggs when the writer examined it, the sitting bird being flushed purposely although it allowed approach to within six inches. Some of the material was the thread of a porch mat and while the nest was in process of construction the bird would fly down on the mat and up to the basket with several people sitting within a few yards. Just why this location was chosen instead of a thousand more natural places in the adjacent garden is inexplicable, and it is strange that these two highly unique nesting sites should be found in the same summer when many other years have revealed nothing of the sort.

These nests were found at Blowing Rock, Watauga County, North Carolina at an altitude of 4100 ft., July 2-7, 1930.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.*

Third Nesting Record of the Rocky Mountain Evening Grosbeak in New Mexico—My good luck in finding a set of five eggs of the Rocky Mountain Evening Grosbeak on June 22, 1930, gave me a great thrill, more especially since it was my first discovery of a nest with eggs in some thirteen years of collecting in New Mexico.

The nest was discovered in Santa Fe Canyon across the Sangre de

Cristo mountain range from the location of the first nest of the species in the State (F. J. Birtwell, 1901) and about two miles from the site of the second nest (M. W. Talbot, 1928).

On reconnaissance trips in late May I had located a few birds in this rough section of the canyon, characterized by steep, timbered slopes. On June 8, and again on June 15, Mr. Talbot and I searched this locality, unsuccessfully. On the first date, however, we observed a female Grosbeak collecting nesting material and accompanied by the male which was doing much talking but apparently no work! We were unable to trace their erratic line of flight, interrupted by two alightings before they passed from view. On the second date, June 15, we again searched the area for several hours, unsuccessfully so far as eggs were concerned. We saw and heard at least one pair of Grosbeaks, and probably more, at intervals during the day. Near the top of a large white fir, to which our suspicion had begun to center, I found a partially completed nest of unknown ownership, that apparently had been recently abandoned. From its flimsy construction, resemblance to the "Talbot nest," and dissimilarity to the nest of any other bird from long experience known to occur in the canyon, I was inclined to guess that it was a Grosbeak nest, perhaps even that of the pair of birds seen the previous week, and abandoned after our unwelcome intrusion. But this was only a guess; definite evidence was lacking.

On June 22, I again visited the area, cherishing the slim hope that a late-nesting pair might still be found. After about an hour of walking and listening, I heard the faint, characteristic call note of a Grosbeak and, quite in contrast with my experiences in many previous searches, the call note was repeated at short intervals, until I reached the tree in which was located the nest and the brooding female that was calling.

The nest was located about 35 feet up in a Douglas fir, on a six-foot limb and about two feet from the main tree trunk. It was partly supported by small twigs but, in contrast to the "Talbot nest," was in such plain view from underneath that at first glance I thought it was a nest of the Western Tanager.

While I was climbing the tree, the female Grosbeak remained quiet until I was within arm's length of the nest, then she gave an alarm call, and dived almost vertically downward nearly to the ground. She returned immediately and in a moment was joined by two more females and two males, all of whom circled close to me, repeating their alarm note, and occasionally perching nearby, one within two feet.

The nest, five inches across, was very loosely made of twigs, but with a distinct depression one inch deep and three inches across, and thinly lined with pine needles, a few shreds of moss, and two small pieces of fine grass stems. It thus more closely resembled Birtwell's nest than Talbot's, both of which are described by Mrs. Bailey in 'The Birds of New Mexico.' Definite conclusions cannot, of course, be based on three records, but the indications are that Grosbeak nests differ considerably,

both in location and in construction. And, judging from previous records, a set of five eggs probably is unusual.—J. K. JENSEN, *Santa Fe, New Mexico*.

Rocky Mountain Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata orestura*) in Clayton County, Iowa.—On May 12, 1926, the writer secured a male of this sub-species, near the village of Giard. Identification was made by Dr. H. C. Oberholser. There are several previous records, east of its range. One from Fort Snelling, Minn., and one from Williamsport, Pa.—OSCAR P. ALLERT, *McGregor, Iowa*.

Nesting of the Cerulean Warbler in Piedmont, Virginia.—The Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*), a fairly common migrant in the Piedmont region of Virginia, appears to be nesting sparingly around Lynchburg. I understand that Bradford Torrey once made a special trip to prove to himself a report that this species was nesting at Natural Bridge, Virginia. I have heard the unmistakable song of the Cerulean Warbler several times in the past four years, during the breeding season, in Lynchburg and vicinity. On June 12, 1927, I heard its song on Tye River in Nelson County at an altitude of about 850 feet. On July 17, 1927, and on July 27 and 28, 1930, individuals were heard singing within the city limits of Lynchburg. We also heard the song of the Cerulean twice during June, on trips in the nearby Blue Ridge mountains.—RUSKIN S. FREER, *Lynchburg, Va.*

A Breeding Record for the Winter Wren in the Mountains of North Carolina.—From what the writers can learn, by a perusal of 'Birds of North Carolina' by Pearson and Brimley, there seems to be but one specific record of the breeding of *Nannus h. hyemalis* in that State. To quote from this work: "Cairns found it breeding on Black Mountain;" Rhoads is also stated to have found it in the fir belt of Roan Mountain in June; Sherman heard one singing on Grandfather Mountain at 5000 ft. in late June, and Pearson heard two singing on Mount Mitchell at 6500 ft., in August.

In view of these records it will be of interest to record that we saw an adult feeding young birds on August 1, 1930, on the slopes of Grandfather Mountain at an elevation of about 5200 ft. In descending what is known as the "chin" of the mountain, a chattering note coming from near the trail attracted our attention. The note was distinctly Wren-like and we dropped down on a fallen log and awaited results. In a short time an adult Winter Wren appeared followed by another and though the surroundings were quite thick and heavy, we saw that one had food in its bill. Just at this juncture, a very thin, high note was heard which we took to be that of a young bird, and in another moment we saw the adult fly a few feet and alight beside a youngster hitherto unnoticed, and feed it. This took place six times in a very few minutes and it transpired that there were at least two young. One came very near to us, just being able to