

stimulated by a reward I had offered him for each distinct variety he would discover. It was easy to walk about in our refuge as the trunks of the spruce and firs were branchless for a considerable distance, and the tops so closely interwoven protected us from the rain.

I followed my friend, not caring to lose his guidance, in the depths of this almost trackless forest and we had not proceeded far when he eagerly beckoned me to approach. Complying with his request, I joined him and he pointed out to me a nest about eight ft. up in a small spruce sapling. It was a neatly woven, compact structure of fine greyish plant-fibres, with a few white gull feathers ornamenting its exterior. Just visible above the brim, was the head and tail of the brooding occupant, thus admitting of an immediate, and positive identification.

I had at last found the home of the Black-poil Warbler, amid the solitude of this northern sea-girt island. The bird allowed me to approach within a few feet of the nest, before she left it.

Its contents were revealed to be five eggs reposing on a firm bed of exceedingly fine plant fibres. The eggs were rather coarse in appearance for the genus *Dendroica*, being of a bluish-white ground color, heavily splashed with various shades of brown over the entire surface.

NESTING HABITS OF THE WHITE-BELLIED NUTHATCH.

Sitta Carolinensis.

BY JAMES B. PURDY, PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN.

The White-bellied Nuthatch, although a common bird and known to almost every schoolboy, has habits during their nesting season, that are unknown to any one except those who are close observers and make birds a careful study. They usually select for their nesting place a hole in a tree twenty-five or thirty feet from the ground and always in a natural cavity, and during the construction of the nest, which is always perched by the female, the male bird's entire time is devoted to furnishing her with food.

She first carries in a lot of fine material with which she builds the outside of her nest, and afterwards lines the inside with mouse-hair and a few feathers, which makes a fine, soft bed on which to deposit her eggs. The nest now being completed, she begins to carry in a lot of coarse material and covers up her nest to quite a depth. This being done, she now begins to deposit her eggs, but how she manages to get under this pile of debris to her nest proper is more than I can tell. But she gets there, and lays an egg each day until she gets a full set, which is usually from six to ten.

Up to this time her eggs are entirely concealed, and many a collector who does not know the habits of the Nuthatch has thrust his hand into a cavity, and finding nothing but a lot of coarse material, has concluded there was nothing there, when if he had dug down a little he would have found a fine set of eggs; and now when she is ready to incubate she carries out all of this coarse material and leaves nothing but her nest proper, and uses no more covering for her eggs during the entire time of incubation.

The male bird keeps himself in close attendance while the female is setting, and his greatest pleasure seems to be in carrying to her all the choice morsels of food that he can find until the young are hatched, when both labor together in furnishing food for their young, and thus it is that nature has endowed to each and every kind of birds habits peculiar to themselves, which makes ornithology and oology interesting and never ending studies.

