

NESTING DIVISION.

Mr. H. C. Higgins, who has charge of this department of the work, issued a circular outlining the matter which reports sent to him ought to contain. He has received a large number of notes, in response to this circular, and is much encouraged with the outlook for his final report. Further notes from all will be thankfully received, and will add greater value to the report. Lest those who have received these circulars may have lost them, I take the liberty of reproducing here the essential parts of Mr. Higgins' circular. Do not let him lack for notes. Recollect that *any* notes you may have will be valuable to him.

What is your latitude? Altitude? The nature of your region (forests, prairies, etc.)? What Warblers are positively known to breed in your section? Are they common or rare?

What site is selected for the nest, and at what date does building begin? How long a time is used in constructing the nest? Of what is it composed? Do both male and female assist in building? Size of nest—inside and outside measurements? Variations of materials used, and relative positions of them if the same, at different times, or for second sets or both?

How much time intervenes, if any, between the completion of the nest and the deposition of the first egg? How much time is required to deposit the full set? How many eggs are usually deposited? Largest set, smallest set? The eggs—color, size and shape, by sets?

Number of days required for incubation, and habits and actions of birds during this period? Do both birds incubate; if so, ratio of time spent by each?

Is the first egg laid the first to hatch?

Is more than one brood raised a year?

Do both parents care for and feed the young?

Action of parents when the nest containing young is approached?

Number of days before the young leave the nest?

How long does the family remain together, and how long are the young cared for and watched over by the parents?

Is the species imposed on by the Cowbird? If so, are any means used to destroy its eggs?

How are the young of the Cowbird treated? Does the Cowbird ever kill the young Warblers?

Any other information regarding the nesting of any of the Warblers

in your locality will be received with thanks. No information is too little to be of value. I hope to receive from you soon any notes you may possess regarding the subject, and I trust you will make it a special study this season and thereby gain much valuable information—at the close of the season sending me the notes taken.

Thanking you in advance, I am, Yours very truly,

HENRY C. HIGGINS, Cincinnati, N. Y.

FOOD AND SONG DIVISION.

The work on Food and Song has been left to the General Chairman, to whom the results of all investigations should be sent.

In determining the food of the several species of Warblers there is opportunity for great practical usefulness. The stomachs of all birds killed should be carefully examined, and a record of the contents made. The more careful the records the better. General statements are of little value.

Feeding habits are always interesting. Do the birds catch the insects on the wing, glean from leaves, pry into bark crevices, or glean from the ground? What is the proportion of eggs, larvæ, and adult insects taken as food? How many insects of a given size are eaten by one bird in a given time? What kind of insects are preferred as food? Such questions, with many more, are awaiting answers.

In addition to descriptions of songs, either graphically or in words or by musical notation, the committee desires information regarding the diurnal period of song. How many and what hours of the day does the species sing? Does it ever sing at night? How do weather and temperature effect the singing? Is the mating song different from the ordinary song? How much, if any, do the transient species sing during their migrations? How many and what weeks do the summer resident species sing? Why do they cease singing? These questions may serve as an illustration of what is wanted for this report. Any notes of any kind will be welcome.

THE FLICKER.

The special work on the Flicker conducted by Mr. Frank L. Burns, Berwyn, Pa., is being rapidly pushed forward. There is need for more notes relating to excavation for the nest, choice of trees, period of incubation, and relations of the sexes in excavation and incubation. Any notes about the young birds before they leave the nest and the length of