

for caring for themselves; they are little fool birds. However, Thrush character varies; it is as beautiful and flexible as the bird's wonderful voice. While nearly all Thrushes are extremely gentle and affectionate, I must confess that the only bird that ever dealt me a blinding blow in the eyes with his wings, when I accidentally startled the young from the nest was an extremely beautiful specimen of the Hermit Thrush. In one family I have found one helpless little bird that insisted on sitting in my note book all the time, with two that resented too much attention.

June 15, 1912, I found a Hermit Thrush incubating three eggs.

June 26, the young Hermit Thrushes were seven days old; it was the end of the quill stage; I took the young Thrushes to study.

June 29, the young Hermits left the nest.

June 30–July 10, the young Thrushes spent part or all of each day in the woods learning to feed. They perched in fir boughs in the house at night.

July 10–July 15, I freed the Thrushes entirely and fed them what was necessary.

July 15, the Thrushes appeared to be in an almost natural state. They were entirely competent to care for themselves.

A BRIEF STUDY OF THE NEST LIFE OF THE BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.

BY CORDELIA J. STANWOOD.

Beside a shady path that marked the course of a neglected woodroad, a pair of Black-throated Green Warblers constructed a nest, near the tip of a branch of a large spruce tree, but three and one-half feet above the ground. It is not very often that the Black-throated Green Warbler provides the student with such an excellent opportunity for studying her nest. Usually these birds build at a greater elevation.

This spruce stood in a clump of firs that bordered an open space in the woods.

There was just room enough among the trees to erect a small balsam blind. When it was completed, my face was about a yard from the nest, and it was so dusky in the tent, that there was little fear of the birds becoming aware of my presence, save when I moved.

As usual, the nest was a dainty-looking, soft, strong, warm cradle. Fine spruce twigs, curls of birch bark, bits of dead wood, secured and cemented together with spiders' silk, gave the substantial foundation. The lining consisted of plant down similar to that of the cinnamon fern, a few threads of black plant fibre, and a few of the dull, orange setae of some moss such as *dicranum* pulled before they were ripe. The nest was just large enough to accomodate four, plump, hungry, sleepy, little Warblers.

Hidden in the blind, I saw the mother bird brood the young, cleanse the nest by burrowing under the young, and carry away the excrement. The diet of the young consisted of brown, white, gray moths, a fly-like insect, a bee-like insect, a small beetle similar to the larder beetle, and a large number of smooth caterpillars, both green and brown. Sometimes the mother bird fed three brown or three green caterpillars to one nestling at a time. Often besides the insect that I was able to distinguish, was a mass of other insect food that I was unable to place. Usually each bird fed several nestlings at each feeding but not more than three at one feeding.

The first day after the tent was constructed, I observed three hours in the afternoon—from 12:37 to 3:05 p. m. A bird came a dozen minutes after I entered the blind. During that time, the male fed the young nine times, and carried away the excrement three times; the female fed the young nine times; one visit was made by a bird whose sex I did not determine; the rate of feeding the young was once in nine and one-half minutes; during my stay, I saw a few of the insects fed to the young; among them were seven smooth, green caterpillars, two brown moths, and three gray

moths; when the female fed the young she twittered *sint, sint, sint*.

At this stage the young twittered faintly when the birds came, gave a vigorous food reaction, preened a great deal and yawned. They had yellow beaks, brownish at the tip, throats lined with red, greenish-grey upper parts, wings darker than the back, two buffy-yellow wing-bars, buffy-yellow underparts, and almost invisible streaks on the breast. Most of the time the young rested their beaks on the rim of the nest, at other times they raised them at an angle of 60°.

The parent birds had formed a habit of walking out the branch to the west side of the nest, but when both birds came at the same time, the male sometimes came to the north side of the nest and the female to the east.

The following morning I was present at the blind from 7 a. m. to 11:11 a. m.—four hours and eleven minutes. During this time the parent birds fed the young once in seven and one-half minutes. The male brought food thirteen times, and the female sixteen times. On the bill of fare I saw one fly-like insect, one bee-like insect, one beetle similar to the larger beetle, ten smooth green caterpillars, eleven smooth brown caterpillars, one white moth and three brown moths. The morning was very wet and foggy. The young are more hungry at this time of day, and usually more caterpillars and fewer moths are served, I suppose on account of the dampness.

The eyes of the young looked intelligent; one called when the parent left the nest; they all snuggled down in the nest when I moved in the blind.

In the evening I spent an hour in the blind. At 7:25 the female fed the young. I remained in the blind until 8 P. M. It was so dark in that part of the woods that the nest ceased to be visible. I saw nothing more of the parent birds.

Two days later the young were still in the nest in the morning. At noon the little grove was deserted and the nest of the Black-throated Green Warbler was "To Let."