

his family was when we approached the blind or at the presence of some other bird. When we came near the blind, he swung out over our heads uttering the whistling note which Nehrling renders "Tii-tii." He ceased this as soon as we disappeared in the blind and resumed his song.

In his relations with his bird neighbors he was far from being friendly. His nearest neighbor was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak which had a nest not twenty-five feet from that of the Red-wing. When not engaged in fighting away other birds, the two males spent much time in fighting each other with the Grosbeak generally victorious. On one occasion a Bronzed Grackle alighted in a willow between the two nests and both males flew at him driving him out of the vicinity. A Catbird and Brown Thrasher had both raised families a short distance away and the young were just out of the nest. Hardly a minute of the day passed but what one could hear the squalling of one of these and the cries of the Red-wing as he drove them away. On the morning when we returned to find the nest destroyed, he was still on guard as bravely and as conspicuously as ever and seemingly undisturbed by the tragedy in his family.

NOTES FROM THE LAURENTIAN HILLS.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET,
AND BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER.

BY L. MCI. TERRILL.

Exploring in the Laurentians has all the fascination of fishing for me; one never knows what to expect at the turn of the road, and the road turns often. Though fire has raged in many sections, the rocky and broken nature of the country prevents a continuous burning.

Most uninviting vistas change abruptly; one climbs a burnt hillside—gray boulders and charred stumps peeping through a dense undergrowth of Bracken and Raspberry vines—sur-

mounts the bare rock at the summit and passing through a fringe of evergreens on the downward slope, halts abruptly to gaze on a lakelet set in a dense carpet of Sphagnum moss. The innumerable hollows all have their lakes or brooks. If you are thirsty, the ditch by the roadside usually affords the clearest of spring water. Late in the afternoon of June 29, 1913, having a little leisure before train time, I thought to see what lay beyond the turn of the road in a hitherto unexplored direction. A short walk from St. Margaret, Terrebonne County, brought me to a stream which led into a small Sphagnum bog. Hearing the rather distant "Tree-deer" of an Olive-sided Flycatcher I started toward some small-growth Tamarack and Spruce trees fringing the open bog, and as I entered their shade a small bird darted out at my feet. The nest, sunk in a hollow in the side of a mound of moss, held four eggs well advanced in incubation.

Thinking it to belong to one of the rarer Warblers I awaited the owner's return, but with the short time at my disposal had to leave unsatisfied. On June 20, 1914, I revisited this bog and after considerable search flushed a bird from a nest containing four similarly marked eggs. This was about fifty yards distant from that of 1913 and possibly belonged to the same pair of birds. I had heard the notes of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher [*Empidonax flaviventris*] on each visit to this district but did not associate it with either nest found, until the birds put in an appearance in the latter instance. Owing to the ventriloquial quality in the voice of this Flycatcher it was some time before I discovered the bird, probably the female, perched on a branch two feet from the ground. Its alarm was sharper and more abruptly ended than the call notes, sounding somewhat like the syllables "pee-weep"; the first note suggesting the Wood Pewee and the latter the Alder Flycatcher. The last note commenced with a rolling and ended with a grating sound, as if the bird had snapped off the sound by suddenly closing its mandibles, accompanied by a tail and bodily twitching that indicated considerable effort.

Hearing the usual call notes one would not suspect much effort, in fact, their ordinary notes, "pee-pee," the latter slightly accented and prolonged, have none of the explosiveness of "alorum," but are peculiarly soft, drowsy, and effortless. Remaining as motionless as possible under the incessant attacks of "Black Flies" I soon heard the other bird answering its mate, and both shortly appeared overhead, a few feet distant, where they displayed mannerisms in movement very similar to the Wood Pewee. The nest was built in the hollow of a small mound, beneath the moss-covered, protruding portion of a root, under deep shade of young Black Spruce, Tamarack, and deciduous shrubs, with a tangle of Alders in the immediate foreground, facing the open bog. On the other side the growth was larger and became almost entirely deciduous, mostly Black Birch, where the basin of the bog terminated in the boulder-strewn base of surrounding hills. The nest found in 1913, which I am reasonably certain belonged to this species, was in a more open situation on the extreme edge of the small growth, in one of many mounds of moss bordering a hare-runway — almost similarly situated as a nest of Nashville Warbler found nearby.

The exterior of nest number two had the rich brown color of leaf mold, being composed of particles of dead Sphagnum and other mosses, fine hair-like black rootlets, bits of decayed wood, and moldy leaves. The lining was mainly of soft bleached grasses and fine black rootlets. The entire structure was very loosely made with little attempt at weaving. Incubation had commenced in the eggs which at first sight resembled those of the Alder Flycatcher, but on comparison the ground color was found to be clear white against the rich cream of "Alorum," and the light reddish markings, chiefly in a wreath about the larger end, were in distinct contrast to the darker rusty red and occasional deep madder brown spots of the Alder Flycatcher. They are also considerably smaller than those of alorum, averaging .68x.53 of an inch. Other species found breeding in the same bog were: Yellow-throat, Myrtle, Magnolia, Nashville, and Blackburn-

ian Warblers; White-throated, and Chipping Sparrows, and Olive-backed Thrush; also, apparently nesting, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Swamp Sparrow, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is quite common in the district and having found only two nests leads me to suspect that the bird is a very light sitter—a trait highly developed in its near relation, the Alder Flycatcher.

Other members of the family are well represented in the district, i.e.;—the Kingbird, Wood Peewee, Olive-sided, and Alder Flycatchers, and less commonly Least, Crested, and Phoebe Flycatcher. Earlier on the same day, in another locality at St. Margaret, I found a nest of the Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa satrapa*). It was quite by accident that my eyes became focused on a mass of green, slightly brighter than the surrounding Balsam foliage, and I experienced a thrill similar to the botanist, who, on finding the Yellow Ladies Slipper, felt as if he had discovered hidden gold.

At the same time I became aware of the faint, though deliberate, “dee-dee” of a Kinglet, differing from the usual call note “ti-ti.” This was apparently the alarm note though with little expression of alarm or otherwise; in fact, so expressionless as to attract attention in time by its very monotony. There was no sign of the wren-like scolding of the “Ruby-crown” and the only indication of ownership was a slightly increased tempo as I approached closely, when the other bird slipped from the nest and joined its mate. The nest was pensile, being hung from the heavily-foliaged limb of a Balsam Spruce, two feet from its tip, ten from the trunk, and twelve from the ground.

At the point where the nest was built, numerous branchlets occurred, several of them being caught in the nesting material beneath and securely fastened with knots of spider's silk. The supporting limb, half an inch in diameter at the nest, with the foliage, completely concealed the entrance beneath. Externally, the nest was almost entirely composed of bright yellowish-green mosses, mainly of the Hypnaceae

family. A few lichens (no *Usnea*) adorned the exterior and numerous balls of reddish-brown spiders' silk held the material together. Within this cradle of moss was a layer of fur from the Hare, and lastly a substantial lining of small feathers, some of them curving upwards and over the entrance, while throughout the nest occasional feathers and hair were used in binding. The nest measured, in outside diameter, 4x3.60 inches; outside depth, 2.15; inside depth, 1.30, and entrance diameter, 1.35 inches.

Only six eggs had been deposited and as incubation had not commenced, the set was likely incomplete. Passing this spot on July 6, I heard the alarm notes of a "Golden-crown" and soon found another nest with one egg, twenty two feet from the ground and eight from the trunk, similarly constructed and situated in another heavily-foliaged Balsam Spruce, one hundred feet distant from the first nest, having likely been built by the same pair of birds.

These nest-trees were situated on a hillside that was formerly pasture-land but now mostly overgrown with Balsam Spruce.

In the many open spaces between these trees was an undergrowth of Brake Fern and Hazel. Both nest-trees faced such openings, where the luxuriant growth and wide-spreading basal branches of the Balsams gave a park-like appearance to the view. On the lower reaches of the hill, facing a trout brook which drained the lake above, the growth was much denser. On June 29, in this denser growth near the brook, were families of two near relatives of the Kinglet—the Winter, and House Wren. The latter had evidently led her young into the shade from adjacent stump-land. From the stream bank a Water-Thrush occasionally sang and I had a chance to compare its song with that of the House Wren. The ripping liquid quality of the Water-Thrush notes always remind me of the Wren, and although the song of the former is much clearer and sweeter, it has the same hurried finish.

On the opposing hill, in dense forest growth, I again heard the methodical "dee-dee" of the "Golden-crown," and found

a family of adults and young, the latter evidently several days out of the nest.

On June 21, 1914, I found another nest of this Kinglet built a few feet distant, on a limb adjacent to that in which the first nest was found in 1913. As I approached, the nine or ten young made their debut from the nest, the cavity being much enlarged and flattened by the crowding of the young as they could not possibly have been contained in the original space. Half a mile away, in a thicket bordering a Sphagnum bog, I saw another family on the wing, and hearing the species singing in two other localities, I concluded it to be a fairly common summer resident, and that two broods are sometimes raised in a season.

It might be interesting to compare nests of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, from Newfoundland. Several nests found by Mr. W. J. Brown, near Bay of Islands, were semi-pensile, resting on limbs of stunted Spruce trees and fastened to twigs of overhanging branches, quite closely to the trunk and generally about five feet from the ground. They are all similar and have a brown appearance compared to the bright green of the "Golden-crown," being composed of a miscellaneous mass of Sphagnum and other mosses, particles of decayed wood, dead spruce needles, fine rootlets, Caribou hair, and Usnea lichens. The lining is of plant down and reddish rootlets, and beneath this is a thick bed of Caribou hair. The body of the nest is sewn in places with hair and bound with Usnea, especially about the rim. The eggs of the two species are similar.

While descending the hill where Kinglets were found on June 29, 1913, I took advantage of a runway leading through the denser growth and discovered a nest on an overhanging limb of a Balsam Spruce, twenty feet from the ground. On climbing the tree, the sitting bird, which I later found was a female Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*), flew to an adjoining tree where she preened her feathers and occasionally uttered faint chips of alarm. The nest held five slightly incubated eggs. There was little shyness indicated

by the bird's actions as she remained in the same tree during my twenty-minute stay, but I failed to get a glimpse of the male bird, except possibly in a meteoric flash. Several other Warblers congregated in the vicinity, particularly Magnolia and Myrtle, some of them protesting more vigorously than the Blackburnian. These Warblers were probably feeding young in the vicinity as I found most of this family thus engaged at this date. The dense forest second-growth in which the nest was located, on the hill slope, overlooking the brook, was practically devoid of undergrowth, the ground being carpeted with dead needles of conifers. The opposing hill was likewise densely wooded, the intervening valley-growth, mainly of Black Birch, Tamarack, and Black Spruce, terminating, half a mile distant, in the aforementioned Sphagnum bog. On July 13, in the dense growth of Tamarack and Black Spruce encircling this bog, another nest of this species was found in the top of a slender Tamarack, fifteen feet from the ground, resting on a dense cluster of twigs. The female was sitting on three eggs in which incubation had advanced six or seven days. This bird acted as in the previous case and the male was very timid, being seen only once at some distance.

Both nests were similarly constructed, though that of July 13 was slighter, probably owing to the situation. The other nest was well out on the limb, about four feet from the trunk, and was supported by a few branchlets. The composition was mainly of fine dead lichen-covered twigs of Spruce and Tamarack, with a small quantity of *Usnea* interlarded, being held together externally in a few places with balls of spiders' silk. A small quantity of *Usnea* and black hair-like rootlets composed the lining. The nests are quite distinct from those of other Warblers that I have examined; differing from the Magnolias in having a preponderance of spruce twigs and no grasses; and from the Myrtles in the slighter construction and lack of feather lining. They differ in greater degree with nests of all other Warblers examined.

The eggs have some of the characteristics of those of the

Yellow Warbler, particularly in the bluish-white or pale bluish-gray ground color. The set of five has faint under-shell markings of lavender, overlaid with a heavy wreath of rufous-brown at the larger end. The other set has more distinct spots of lavender, rufous-brown, and blackish. The first set average .66x.51; the other .65x.53 of an inch. The nest measurements are:—Outside diameter, 3.40; inside, 2.25; outside depth, 2.10; inside, 1.45 inches.

St. Lambert, Que.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE BIRDS OF ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

BY LOUIS S. KOHLER

Since publishing my list of birds observed by me in the above named county in the Wilson Bulletin, Nos. 72-73, September-December 1910, numerous species have been added during the three years which have elapsed since that time which bring the total up to January 1, 1914 to one hundred and forty-six species.

In addition to these several additions, there were several omissions, viz.: (52) Vesper Sparrow, (64) Rose-breasted Grosbeak, (65) Indigo Bird, and (96) Wilson Warbler, notes on which species will be given in the appended list.

Also numerous corrections, which more extensive observations have proven most conclusively, that my former statements were not quite true conditions, are at this time taken care of, together with additional notes on some of the species which have undergone changes as regards their former status and present distribution.

OMISSIONS.

(52) *Pooecetes gramineus*.—Vesper Sparrow. A common summer resident.

(64) *Zamelodia ludoviciana*.—Rose-breasted Grosbeak. A rather common summer resident. Found nesting at numerous points throughout the county since 1904, but never with any regularity, as