

FIELD NOTES

NESTING HABITS OF KENTUCKY WARBLER.

The interesting account, in your September issue, of the Kentucky Warbler nesting in northern Ohio, brings to mind an experience with a pair of Kentucky Warblers' nest building in the hill country at Cincinnati, Ohio, where it is a well-known bird.

In a bit of sloping woodland we spied a female Kentucky (*Oporornis formosus*) moving about in a suspicious manner. Quietly seating ourselves in a shielded spot we soon found she was indeed nest building.

A large fallen tree in the lowest part of the woodland served as her approach; here she would light, carrying by the top a dry beech leaf, the pink feet being the only visible portion of the bird. The length of the log was traversed and each trip she left it at the same point for the spot of her building.

In Chapman's book, "The Warblers of North America," page 240, is this statement referring to their nest building: "The male unquestionably aids his mate." Our pair was evidently an exception to the rule. As she worked the ringing song of the male could be heard in the distance, but when interest overcame his discretion and he alighted silently in a nearby tree, she stopped in her journey on the log. The very cessation of his song seemed to arouse her suspicions and she stood in a listening attitude; when he came near she grew tense and immovable as a statue until he flew away and his song was again heard in the distance; if he alighted on the log she routed him sharply. After these interruptions she went most leisurely about resuming her work. At no time did the male bring nesting material.

The nest was in the lower part of the wooded slope, which was almost free from shrubbery. The site selected was at the base of a very small horse chestnut, about two feet high.

The beech leaves were prettily placed in a cup form resembling the petals of a half blown rose; some of the leaves were placed lengthwise rather than tip down.

Unfortunately it was necessary to leave before the completion of the nest, which could not have been accomplished before the following day.

This incident occurred on the afternoon of May the seventh.

LUCY V. BAXTER COFFIN.

3232 Groveland Avenue, Chicago, Ill.