

served sitting upon it for several days before she was picked up dead by some children. The male had not been seen for several days before the death of the female.

Master Joyner has written some interesting facts about this nest. He says: "The female is the worker, building the nest all by herself, the male seeming to be the protector, flying with but just a little way off from the female. . . . There were two eggs in the nest, one of which had a hole in it and broke when it was touched. Due to the weather the other egg was frozen, but it soon thawed out and cracked. We saved the pieces."

The crossbills had been noted for some time before their nesting was observed, and on February 15, just after a heavy blizzard, a dead male crossbill was found. Later another dead male bird was found by some children, possibly the nesting male, and finally the nesting female, on the day that the deserted nest and eggs were collected. No injury was noticeable on the bodies of any of these birds thus found dead.

It is unfortunate that none of these dead crossbills were preserved, for it is yet an open question whether this record concerns the Eastern Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) or the Rocky Mountain Red Crossbill (*L. c. bendirei*), which, by the way, is an excellent subspecies and should be recognized as such by the A. O. U. Committee. The Rocky Mountain form abounds in the Pine Ridge of northwestern Nebraska in winter, and may be found there in some years in the summer also, but has not been found nesting. During the winter it occurs more or less commonly over the entire state. The Eastern Red Crossbill we have found only in the late fall, winter and early spring in the eastern part of the state, though in some seasons very commonly.

The nest, along with the fragments of the egg which was frozen and broke on thawing, was presented to the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union collection by Master Joyner, who is entitled to credit for his valuable observations and willingness to place his find where it will be permanently preserved. I am also indebted to Mrs. Frances C. Morgan, a neighbor of Master Joyner, for having first acquainted me with the fact of the nest and for corroborating the above statements and the identification of the birds.

MYRON H. SWENK.

Lincoln, Nebraska.

Some Nelson County, Kentucky, Notes, 1920.

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*). Several of our ornithologists state that the song of the worm-eating warbler is somewhat similar to that of the chipping sparrow, and many a time I have hunted out a singing chippie at the edge of some thicket, or woods, half expecting to find this woodland warbler, but

invariably it proved to be the sparrow, and not the much-sought warbler. On the morning of July 11 I was rambling in the woods bordering the Beech Fork river, about three miles southeast of Bardstown; my course led me up a small stream bordered by deep thickets that extend along its banks from its confluence with the river for half a mile toward its source. I was walking slowly, occasionally gazing into the tree tops as I listened to the queer grating song of the Cerulean warbler. Perceiving an unknown warbler that was quietly hopping about among the branches of a sycamore tree, and in easy range of my collecting gun, I fired and brought it down. It was an adult worm-eating warbler, the first I had ever found in this locality. Though having taken the bird I was none the wiser as to its song, but it was a new species for my local list, and that was some satisfaction. Charles W. Beckham lists thirty-four members of the warbler family in his *Birds of Nelson County*, but he never found the worm-eating warbler here.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*). Another new species for this locality is the house wren, which was observed on two occasions in May of this year. On the 8th of the month I was afield in one of my favorite stamping grounds about two miles southeast of town; everywhere birds were singing and all voices were familiar except one that seemed to come from a brush-heap at the edge of a cedar thicket. I had little trouble locating the singing bird, but it was some minutes before I could get a glimpse of it, so well did it remain concealed in the brush. Finally it hopped to the top of the pile to deliver its tinkling, bubbling, song and at once I recognized it as the house wren. Watching it for some time I was able to get several good views of it, thereby making identification certain. Four days later, May 12, I again observed a house wren, in an old rail fence near a house, in the same locality. This one was not singing, but from the lateness of the season I had some hopes of its breeding in the neighborhood. However, nothing more was seen of it and I suppose it was only a very late migrant. For many years I have looked for this wren, but always my search had been in vain. Bewick's wren is the species commonly breeding about town, though a few pairs of the noisy Carolina wren share town life with them.

Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*). Ten years ago this bird was one of the most common of the summer residents, a few wintering. In summer every farm had one or several pairs, and many nested in favorable places about town. For the past several years they have been noticeably decreasing in numbers, and where they were formerly numerous, the past summer they were scarce or entirely absent. In looking over my field notes for the past season I find that the mockingbirds seen during the summer would not have represented more than three or four pairs of nest-

ing birds, whereas, ten years ago twelve or fifteen pairs would have been found in the same territory. Several years ago it was a common thing to find mockinbgirds that had been taken at an age when about to fly and confined to a cage as pets. However, this practice is not so common now, and possibly when it existed it had but little effect on the number of mockinbgirds as a good many of these birds picked up from the ground undoubtedly would have been caught by cats, or destroyed in some other way. In 1885 Beckham wrote concerning this bird in this locality: "Ten years ago they were comparatively rare here, but now there are few gardens or yards where one or more pairs do not nest." At present the order of this statement is reversed, and now the status of the mockinbgird for this vicinity should read—Ten years ago they were common, now they are comparatively scarce.

BEN J. BLINCOE.

Bardstown, Ky., October, 1920.

A One-Day List of Birds at East Falls Church, Virginia.

By Ira N. Gabrielson

During the spring of 1917 the writer lived at East Falls Church, Va., on a small suburban place of one and one-half acres. This place was covered by a heavy growth of jack pines, with a small intermixture of persimmon, oak, hawthorne, and other deciduous timber. The lot across the road was grassland and from it such birds as the meadowlark and grasshopper sparrow came to our yard. During the spring migration it was an ideal place to observe the movements of warblers and other small birds. The height of the migration at this point, at least on the days when I could be present, was on May 19. During the day, beginning at daylight, I saw the following birds on this place:

1. Black-crowned Night Heron—*Nycticorax n. naevius*. Flying over.
2. Bob-white—*Colinus v. virginianus*.
3. Mourning Dove—*Zenaidura m. carolinensis*.
4. Turkey Vulture—*Cathartes a. septentrionalis*.
5. Sharp-shinned Hawk—*Accipiter velox*.
6. Yellow-billed Cuckoo—*Coccyzus a. americanus*.
7. Downy Woodpecker—*Dryobates p. medianus*.
8. Red-headed Woodpecker—*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.
9. Flicker—*Colaptes a. auratus*.
10. Whip-poor-will—*Antrostomus v. vociferus*.
11. Nighthawk—*Chordeiles v. virginianus*.
12. Chimney Swift—*Chaetura pelagica*. Flying over.
13. Crested Flycatcher—*Myiarchus crinitus*.
14. Wood Pewee—*Myiochanes virens*.