

FIELD NOTES

RED-EYED VIREO MIMICS THE CALL NOTES OF THE CRESTED FLYCATCHER

In "Bird Lore" for September-October, 1920, (vol. xxii, page 287) Mr. E. A. Doolittle calls attention to a Red-eyed Vireo that frequently punctuated its ordinary song with the whistled call of the Crested Flycatcher. On July 24th of this year, while in a narrow strip of woodland near the Stillwater River about eight miles north of Dayton, Ohio, I heard a singing Red-eyed Vireo that imitated to perfection the shrill whistled "quirp" of the Crested Flycatcher. The flycatcher note was uttered at intervals throughout the song but never repeated twice in succession; as many as ten and as few as three of the regular phrases were uttered between repetitions of the flycatcher's call. During a period of about three hours this Red-eye sang three times, each song-period lasting from ten to fifteen minutes, and each time the strange note entered into the song with about the same regularity. On the following day the song was heard again for about five minutes at the same place, the flycatcher's call entering as prominently into the song as on the day before.

At first the flycatcher call was entirely deceptive but after listening to the Vireo for a short time the source of the note was obvious; the steady delivery of short phrases of the typical song was frequently punctuated with the characteristic high pitched whistle of the Crested Flycatcher, and so closely was this note followed by phrases of the regular song, that without a previous knowledge of this peculiarity, the Vireo would never have been suspected. Had not Mr. Doolittle's observation appeared in print, in all probability I would not have distinguished this note in the Red-eye's song, but likely would have passed up the bird supposing there was a Crested Flycatcher nearby also. As this bird does not to my knowledge imitate other birds, the selection of identically the same strange note by individuals in widely separated parts of the country is something more than a mere coincident; as Mr. Doolittle has already suggested, I believe it will eventually be found that this call note of the Crested Flycatcher is frequently employed by this species.

BEN. J. BLINCOE.

August 10, 1924.

ROBIN NEST ON GROUND

On May 6th, 1924, my sister-in-law, Mrs. T. J. Blincoe told me of finding a robin's nest on the ground under a rhubarb plant in the garden; I visited the place at once and found that the nest was unmistakably of robin construction and contained two typical eggs; a third egg was laid the following day and hatching took place on the 18th and 19th of the month; unfortunately the young were destroyed three days after hatching.

The nest was about midway between two rhubarb plants that stood approximately fifteen inches apart, and fit snugly in a depression that

measured about one and three-fourths inches in depth; there was no vegetation about the nest other than the rhubarb plants. In cultivating, the ground had been thrown toward the row, thus the nest was situated on a slight ridge where hard dashing rains were not likely to flood it, and the large leaves of the rhubarb afforded ample protection from the sun.

I wrote to Mr. Amos W. Butler of Indianapolis, Indiana, regarding this unusual nesting and in reply he stated that he did not recall ever having heard of a similar nesting, and suggested that I publish a note concerning it. However, since receiving Mr. Butler's letter, I find in *Bird-Lore* for July-August, 1918 (vol. xx, page 302) an account of a robin's nest that was found in an orchard, placed in a clump of clover. I am aware of no other records of ground nest of this species.

BEN. J. BLINCOE.

August 13, 1924.

KENTUCKY WARBLER IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN

About the 28th of May, 1921, while going by a small body of water, I heard a musical song coming from a nearby evergreen tree. Up on a horizontal branch of a tree was a male Kentucky Warbler. It was a very active bird feeding on insects among the branches of the trees.

I watched the warbler for a few minutes and then went to another place looking for new arrivals for the year. As I returned to the place where the Kentucky Warbler was, on my way back home, I was successful in seeing the bird again. Also saw it on the two succeeding days near this place.

That was my last observation of the warbler until May 14, 1922, when out on a bird walk, I found one a short distance north of the place where I saw it in 1921.

I have not been successful in finding it since.

It does not seem to go much over 20 feet high in the trees while feeding or any other time during my observation of this beautiful bird.

I was within a few yards of this bird, so had a very interesting observation.

OSCAR M. BRYENS.

McMillan, Luce County, Mich.

THE WESTERN HOUSE WREN NESTING IN CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Until the spring of 1924 we had known the Western House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon parkmani*) in Norman, Okla., only as a transient from mid-April to mid-May and again in October. The only breeding records for the State are three from the northern border—Enid and Kenton. This spring we had placed a box for the Texas Bewick Wrens in a plum tree instead of on a pole as usual. On April 16 I saw one of these birds go to the house and peck vigorously at the entrance as if trying to enlarge it. Although I at once changed the size of the hole, I never saw these Wrens return to the box.

On April 21, to our surprise we heard a House Wren singing on the