

NORTHERMOST RANGE OF MANY Southern species and the extent of the Southern range of many Northern species; hence the mentioned locality being of an Alleghanian X Carolinian nature, accounts for the protracted presence of these two Southern forms, and is probably the northernmost point of their regular range, inasmuch as the chain of the Blue Ridge Mountains stretches from North to South, only a few miles from this locality, and these birds no doubt arrive from a Southeasterly direction and find their further progress toward West and North barred by the mountain ranges.

JOHN W. DANIEL, JR., *Lynchburg, Va.*

HELMINTHOPHILA PINUS IN WISCONSIN.

The Blue-winged Warbler has always been considered a *very* rare bird in Wisconsin, as indeed it probably is, and so it was with a great deal of pleasure that I found myself on July 11, 1897, while pushing my way through the edge of a deep second growth oak wood, with an entire family of them before me—parents and four or five young. They were busy feeding among the lower branches of the small, thickly growing young oaks, remaining in company like a family of young Redstarts and gathering their food entirely from the under sides of the leaves, hanging head downward a large share of the time; full fledged at this early date and only showing his immaturity by the indistinctness of the orbital stripe, the paler yellow crown and the general pin-feathered condition of the post-juvenile moult.

They had without doubt been reared in this very wood and it was with considerable eagerness that I watched for their possible arrival the following spring, but although I fairly haunted these and nearby woods the entire season, but one was noted—a fine male, killed before I realized what it was, while collecting Warblers on May 22.

I could not however give them up and the spring of 1899 found me early in these same woods—where on May 14 I came upon a Blue-wing and at the same instant saw the tell-tale grass

in its mouth that certainly indicated nest building. I had mistrusted from the young of two years before that they must nest very early but I had hardly expected to find them building when the bulk of the Warblers had only just arrived and many, strictly migratory species in our vicinity, would linger here for two weeks longer. This was not far from the place where the family of young was found in the summer of 1897 and I remained in the vicinity for some time but the bird had seen me and was extremely shy and nervous so I left and later in the day returned, but the steady sprinkle which had continued all day developed into a heavy rain and I was compelled to leave with nothing more gained.

Three days later I returned to the spot, had myself seemingly hidden in the hazel brush with not long to wait when the bird returned—again with nesting material in her bill, and after a few anxious “chips” settled directly into a grassy sod in the centre of a small clump of hazel brush. She was there but a second and when she had left I was looking into the nest, almost completed and already containing one egg. Hastily withdrawing, it was not until the 22nd that I visited the birds again, accompanied by an expert in nest photography. The bird was found on the nest, which contained *six* eggs. This one, the female, was taken, the nest photographed and the watch for the mate began. So far but *one* Blue-wing had been seen at the nest at a time although the continued “chip, chip” of the mate, the exact call of the one killed had been heard many times when the female was in sight. In about a half hour he appeared in the immediate vicinity of the nest and at once showed his great nervousness and anxiety at finding us so near—but on picking him up after he was killed imagine my surprise at finding him nothing more or less than a Nashville Warbler (*Helminthophila rubricapilla*). It proved to be a male with enormously developed testes and no one with any experience with nesting birds could doubt for a moment, had they seen the actions of this bird at the nest, that he was any other than the mate of the female Blue-wing, and the male parent to the set of eggs. I believed it the moment I picked him up, but remained until late in the afternoon, until nearly dark for some other to appear, but neither

did I again see a Blue-winged Warbler or even hear a call that could have been either the Blue-wing or Nashville Warbler.

The Nashvilles are rather rare in these woods, indeed although I collected a great deal there during the year I did not meet with another during the spring or entire summer short of five miles from the nest, I particularly searched in the immediate vicinity of the Blue-wings' nest for them, in order to completely do away with the possibility of there being a Nashvilles' nest in the neighborhood. The nest is composed of dry oak leaves and coarse grass lined with strips of grape bark and an inner lining of fine grasses; but slightly raised from the ground (not more than two inches) in a tussock of grass in the center of a small hazel bush. The cup is very deep, nearly 2 1-2 inches, and only 2 1-4 across at the top. Six eggs seems to be an unusually large clutch for this bird, but one finds so few records of the nesting of the species that it may be more usual than supposed.

I could not help but regret that in my eagerness and anxiety to make positive my identification of what is probably the only record of the nest and eggs of *Helminthophila pinus* in Wisconsin that I had destroyed such possibilities of further interesting hybrids of the species with allied forms, as I am as well satisfied in my own mind that the Nashville Warbler is the male parent of the set as though I had shot him from the nest.

Since then I have taken two more specimens of the Blue-wing in the same county—a male May 28, 1899 and a female May 13, 1900—the latter within twenty rods of where the young were found. Neither of these were apparently breeding yet when taken.

N. HOLLISTER, *Delavan, Wis.*

THE COLD WAVE OF FEBRUARY 1899, IN DeKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA.

Having received a few enquiries regarding the cold wave of 1899, and its effect upon bird life in this locality, I have decided to place before the readers of the BULLETIN the results of my observation.



Hollister, N. 1901. "Helminthophila Pinus in Wisconsin." *The Wilson bulletin* 13(4), 30–32.

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