

OLD NESTING RECORDS OF RARE BIRDS IN IOWA.

At the time Anderson wrote the "Birds of Iowa" Mr. Ed. S. Currier then of Keokuk and now of Portland, Oregon, contributed a major portion of the data on the breeding birds of southeastern Iowa. Mr. Currier's records from Clark County, Missouri, just across the Iowa state line from Keokuk, occupied a prominent place in Widmann's publication on Missouri birds.

In a letter from Mr. Currier on Jan. 16, 1935, he sent to the writer data on the former breeding of several rare birds in Iowa. These data are here quoted verbatim.

Black and White Warbler. I examined six nests of this species, five in Missouri and one in Lee County, Iowa. This nest was found June 4, 1901 and is now No. 4530 in my collection. The situation of all nests was the same; sunken in the leafy mold of the hammocks in heavy wooded bottom-lands. The nest that I took in Lee County contained three fresh eggs.

Golden-winged Warbler. In all my collecting in the Mississippi River Valley, I found but one nest of this species. This is nest No. 869 in my collection, taken May 28, 1888 near Keokuk, Lee County, Iowa. The bird was flushed from the nest and watched for quite a while, plainly seen many times. It was not shy, in fact bold, and very demonstrative.

The nest touched the ground but was built up and supported by a shrub and was very large. The outer structure was a sheath of old oak and elm leaves held together by their dampness and the inner nest was $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep by $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter at the

top or entrance. The nest was lined with strips of weed-bark at top and fine fibres and some grass at bottom. This made the shape bulb-like with larger end reaching to the ground. The five eggs were perfectly fresh and nicely spotted. The nest was different from any of the Blue-winged Warblers I ever took and the location also was not the same. This was a high dry hillside very heavily covered with second-growth oak and hickory.

Chestnut-sided Warbler.- I have found 36 nests of this species, but only one in Iowa, and I still consider that a very unusual occurrence. This single Iowa nest was found May 29, 1898 and contained only one egg with both birds at the nest. I did not take it but went back June 5, and found it deserted with the single egg and I could get no trace of the birds. This nest was No. 3398 and I still have it and think more of it than any set in my large series from Cass County, Minnesota. This nest was placed 20 inches up in the forks of an indian currant bush in a thicket at the endge of a woodland.

Northern Prairie Warbler.- My experience with this warbler was very limited in Iowa. I heard the bird several times after I learned its song in southern Missouri but only found one nest in Lee County, Iowa. This was on June 5, 1886, and it is now No. 422 in my collection. The nest was located in a brushy tract on the hillside overlooking the Mississippi River just north of Keokuk. It was a showering day with bursts of sunshine following the showers and when the sun came out in one of those

times I heard this warbler singing in the general bird chorus that broke out. It was not long before I located the nest with the bird on. It was four feet up on the forks of a bush in a thicket. The nest contained two fresh eggs and as I could not get back there again for sometime I took it. The eggs were fresh and are still in my collection.

Kentucky Warbler.- In my collecting in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Arkansas, I found 110 nest of this bird, but only took two sets of eggs in Lee County, Iowa. My first nest taken in Iowa was on June 3, 1894, nest No. 2071. It contained one young and an infertile egg which I still have. The other nest was taken May 29, 1900, nest No. 3890 and had three fresh eggs and one of the Cowbird's.

This is a bird of the wooded bottom-lands found in thick growth or hummocks, and the nests while large are hard to find. In fact, the first one you will find accidentally and that will tell you a lot.

Hooded Warbler.- In my collecting along the Mississippi River I found a total of 25 nests of this species; two in Lee County, Iowa and the others in Missouri. The nests taken in Iowa were on June 24th, 1894 and in the same piece of bottom-land not far from the mouth of the Des Moines River. These nests are Nos. 2274 and 2275.

Both pairs of warblers were at the nests and all very fussy. The nests were in wet, heavy timbered bottom-land and

subject to overflow in extreme high water and the locality was a favorite nesting locality for Kentucky Warblers, White-eyed Vireos, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Prothonotary Warblers, Acadian Flycatchers, etc.

One nest was 18 inches and the other 20 inches above the ground, both in forks of small shrubs growing in wet, rank growth and well concealed. The nests were made of wire-like grasses on a ragged bed of birch bark, and neatly lined with a finer grass. The nests were 3 inches high, the interior measured $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches by 2 inches across and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep. One nest contained three warbler eggs and one of the cowbird. The three eggs of the warbler were all fresh and well colored.--Philip A. DuMont, Des Moines, Iowa.