

lamp—alluding to the fiery crest.) L. $4\frac{1}{2}$. Olive-green, shaded into dull whitish below; quill feathers dusky with yellowish edgings; a patch of scarlet on the crown. Sexes alike. Young without the brown patch. Nest and eggs unknown.

The Golden-crowned Kinglet.—*R. satrapa* (*satrap* a prince.) Like the last, but crown-patch yellow with a central spot of scarlet and an outline of black, except behind; outside the black line is one of white; ♀ without the scarlet spot. Young, colored as in *calendulus*, but distinguishable by having over each nostril a tiny bristly feather; the nostrils of *calendulus* being naked.

Nest found by Minot in 1875 was globular in shape, formed of moss and feathers and placed in a low hemlock bough. It contained six young. Audubon also is said to have found the nest and eggs. But they still rank among the greatest of oological prizes as there are no authentic specimens extant in any of our museums.

Found all over N. America.

The Blue-grey Gnatcatcher.—*Poli-
optila caerulea*. (L. *caerulea*, blue.) L. $4\frac{1}{2}$. Clear ashy blue bluest on the head; whitening below; forehead and line over the eye; black; outer tail feather, white; ♀ without any black on the head.

Nest, in a forked twig; of fibres, thistledown and cobwebs.

Eggs, 4—6; .45 × .6; pure white, spotted and blotched with reddish, umber and lilac.

Southern States chiefly, but said to occur in Nova Scotia.

One of the smallest of birds, of fairy-like delicacy, a sort of animated gossamer, catching gnats as aforètime. Famed for its silvery song, which is as thin and elfin-like as might be expected from a bird that for the coarser materials of its nest uses thistle-down and for lack of softer lining, must needs be content with the finest silk of spider's spinning.

In this family the Ruby-crown is the bird which I treat biographically, but lack of space will compel me to abbreviate a history, of which, at best, but little is known.

This species is found all over North America, from Guatamala to Greenland, and from Alabama to Alaska. In the beginning of the year, we would find them in their far south winter quarters, but always moving. By the end of March, the main body seems to reach the Middle States; here, according to Prof. Coues, some linger right on into May, but they must be few in number, for I found them abundant in Ontario in April, and in Manitoba they arrive about the middle of May, in full force and in full song. I will quote from my diary an entry referring to the song.—

"May 12th. While hunting through the eastern poplar country to-day, I often heard a certain loud-voiced warbler; its notes may be syllabically suggested, "pie, piee, pi-ee, hup-pi-chi, hup-pi-chi, hup-pi-chi, hup-pi-chi, hup-pi-chi, hup-pi-chi, HUP-PI-CHI, HUP-PI-CHI," commenced very softly, but with continually added power, till the last notes rang out as loud and strong as those