

destroying worms and grubs on his trees, for his observations show a great increase in the yield since he followed the plan of encouraging the Bluebirds.

The nest, whether in an old woodpecker's hole, a knot-hole, or a bird-house, is made chiefly of sticks and grass, and the eggs, like those of the Thrushes, are of a delicate blue.

The male shares the duties of hatching and rearing the young, which, in the nest are fed exclusively with insect food. When they are fully fledged, we are reminded of their kinship to the Thrushes by the spotted plumage which continues until the second month, when they assume the colors of the old ones.

We begin to see here that the genus has many more points of resemblance to, than difference from, the Turdidae; and throughout the families of birds we observe much of the same excessive hairsplitting, so that it appears to me that a reduction of sub-families (perhaps families) to the rank of genera would result in a classification much more nearly in accordance with accepted canons of arrangement in the other kingdoms of nature.

In the Middle States the Bluebird is said to sometimes raise three broods in one season. In Ontario it will often raise two, but I have no evidence to show that in Manitoba more than one brood is hatched each summer.

In September they may be seen, in straggling companies, about the weedy commons, uttering their soft warble still, as they flit about in the chase of

flies and the search for worms. They are evidently travelling now (Sept.) although they do not seem much in earnest about it, nor do they entirely disappear until a month later. They seem to continue this leisurely retreat before the North Wind until at length they are found only in the extreme Southern States and the West India Islands, where as we learn from Wilson, they while away the winter in sunshine, while their native woodlands are sleet-covered, and the land of their birth is in snow.

The next family of birds is the *Sylviidae* — *Sylvias* (Latin *sylva*, woodland.)

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet—*Regulus calendulus*.

The Golden-crowned Kinglet—*Regulus satrapa*.

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—*Polioptila caerulea*.

I find it impossible to define this family with conciseness or even to briefly distinguish it from the last. But our purpose will be answered by at once characterizing the two genera.

Regulus—(L. meaning a little king; an allusion to their golden crown.) Tiny, greenish-olive colored birds, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, with a crown-patch of brilliant scarlet or yellow; tarsus booted; tail slightly forked.

Polioptila—(Gr. *polios* hoary, *ptilon* feather.) Differs from last in bearing no bright or decided colors and in having tarsus scutellate and tail rounded.

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet—*Regulus calendulus* (*calendulus*, a little