

name *Troglodytes*, which has been given to the Wrens, signifies 'one that creeps into holes.' It has been so applied because of their custom of nesting in cavities and other out-of-the-way nooks. This secretive habit seems to be common to both the old and the new-world forms, and largely accounts for the scarcity of facts relating to the nidification of the species at present under consideration.

I shall now speak of the nest and eggs in my own possession, of which a full description will be given.

They were found, about May 11th, 1891, by my brother while fishing at Kidston's Lake near the Rocking Stone, Spryfield, Halifax County. One of the parent birds was then seen at the nest. On May 22nd I examined them and took one of the eggs; on which occasion the bird was again observed. Another visit was made on the fifth of the following month (June). Several times I saw the bird enter and leave the nest. It was probably the female. When disturbed, she hurried away without the slightest noise, usually flying to the ground and rapidly hopping out of sight, as though ashamed of her little home. Nor did she seem very anxious about its security while we were occupied in examining it. This was very different from most other birds, which keep diligent guard over their eggs; of whose safety they seem extremely solicitous, and in defending which they often exhibit great instinctive pugnacity. At one time the Wren proceeded toward the outer end of a dead tree-trunk, where she captured some larva, and then whilst retaining hold of the animal with the bill, killed it by several vigorous blows directed against the wood. These strokes could be distinctly heard, although the bird was a rod or two away. Such an incident illustrates the want of maternal concern which has just been noted. Once while she was within the nest, I placed a landing-net over the entrance and held her for a short time, so as to put the question of identification beyond a doubt.

After observing as much as possible, I cut out a square of the moss with my knife, and so obtained the nest and eggs. It seemed a pity to miss an opportunity of thoroughly examining them, and the bird undoubtedly would again build.