

where there is much fallen timber, and where fires have burnt hollows in the mucky soil, that in after years are filled with stagnant water during the greater part of the year. In my boyhood days I discovered that this bird, as well as several other species of the warblers, would nest in cavities prepared for them in the early spring time, and as I have often acted on this suggestion, I seldom fail—each year—to find nests in these places if, situated in the localities that they frequent.

#### THE BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.

On the southeast corner of the farm lot that adjoins Wildwood on the north, and but a few rods from the boundary line, in a stretch of low ground there stands the large turned up root of an old fallen tree, the top of which is over a dozen feet from the level ground. In what was once the "upper" side of this "turn-up," and about half-way in its height, I discovered on the 28th of May, a nest containing three eggs, which at the time, I took to be those of a Canadian warbler. Three days after I revisited the site, found the mother bird "at home" and seated on the nest. At my near approach she flushed off and down upon the ground—where with outspread and quivering wings, and the venting of a few notes, she attempted to draw my attention from her treasures. Gazing down on the interesting little creature, within a few feet of where I stood, I was not much surprised, though somewhat disappointed, to note that the specimen was of the *M. varia* species, and that it was her nest that was placed before me, and which now contained five beautifully spotted, fresh eggs. The cavity in which the nest was placed had been partly excavated, probably by the bird itself; but in order to support the foundation quite a large quantity of dead leaves and strips of bark had been used, and inside of this there was a lining of fine vegetable materials and some animal hair. So closely in composition and materials, as well as the situation of the nest, as also the size and marking of the eggs, do those of this species resemble that of the Canadian warbler, that it would be difficult to decide which belonged to each species, unless the owners were identified on or close by the nest. A few points of variation may be noted, and this subject will again be referred to in the article on the nest of