

THE NESTING OF THE CERULEAN WARBLER.

By W. E. SAUNDERS, London, Ont.

Among the rarer small birds of the Great Lakes region, none have attracted me more than the Cerulean Warbler. Perhaps this has been on account of the difficulties encountered in watching it, and the almost prohibitive heights at which it conducts its matrimonial affairs, or perhaps on account of its dainty colours, pure white beneath and blue above; but from whatever cause, the attraction has certainly existed. Except in the period of nest building, it seldom comes to the ground, and as a rule the song comes from such a height that it takes some minutes to locate the singer. In Ontario, this Warbler is fairly well distributed, and is common from the west end, by the Detroit River, at least as far east as St. Thomas, but as the distance north from Lake Erie grows greater, it becomes less common and more local. Near London it is rare and very local; five males, in widely scattered woods being noted within seven miles of the city this year, while at Bryanston, fifteen miles northeast, there are some woods in which it is fairly common. Its summer distribution on the whole continent is from the Alleghanies west to the plains, and from Tennessee, Kansas, and Missouri north to Central New York, Southern Ontario, Michigan and Minnesota. Throughout this range there are many points of abundance, but its habit of living so high up in the trees makes the finding of its nest so difficult that its eggs are rare in collections, and its intimate acquaintances are few among men; and indeed until I was equipped with a good field glass I accomplished little in the solving of their nesting problem, but this year, encouraged by the experience of Robert Elliott, who found one inaccessible nest in May, 1899, near Bryanston, Ont, I determined to really do some work on this interesting bird.

As its nearest centre of abundance is near the west end of the Ontario peninsula, where I had already met with it in great numbers in a previous year, a preliminary trip was made some miles below Chatham, which resulted in finding two woods where