

human habitations, and contest with the chipping sparrow for the possession of a nesting site among the raspberry vines of the garden.

THE AMERICAN REDSTART.

In the same woodland, which, with the uncleared parts of the adjoining farm, covers an area of over twenty acres, the active and beautiful redstart is heard intermingling its notes, and found to have its summer home in close community with those of the chestnut-sided warbler, and its nesting site is always found to occupy a higher elevation, and usually the more open parts of the under-wood, the nest being placed in rather exposed positions, the bird apparently depending for the concealment of the nest more on the fact that the material of which it is composed closely resembles the bark of the sapling in the fork of which it is placed, rather than on the denseness of the foliage that overhangs and surrounds it. Many nests of this species, in past years, have come under my observation; but it is only of those noted the present season that I purpose here to speak. On May 22nd I noticed a female redstart flying from a partly composed nest, the site of which was in the fork of a small maple sapling, and at an elevation of about eight feet off the ground. This nest could be easily seen, when the searcher's gaze was directed to it, at a distance of four rods; the woods around it were rather open, and the leaves of the sapling were a yard or more above it. Eight days after I found that this nest contained four of the warbler's own eggs and one of a cowbird, all of which were fresh. Of all the warblers, the nest of this species is about the neatest and most firmly put together, the bird evidently emitting a good deal of saliva upon the material of which the nest is composed when she is placing the fragments in position. All this work, as well as that of incubation, appears to be done by the female, though it is probable that her more beautifully plumaged consort occasionally supplies her with food as she incubates her eggs; and he certainly largely assists in feeding the young and in trying to defend them if exposed to danger. If the first efforts of this bird to propagate its species are successful, it does not nest more than once in the season, otherwise it will nest a second time. The materials of which the greater part of the