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THE BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (Dendroica cærulescens).

The favorite habitat of this species is high hardwood timbered woods, where there is a thick growth of underbrush; and while the male warbles his melody high among the branches, where also he loves to glean his insect food amid the green foliage, the female usually selects a lowland situation for the cradle of her progeny; and in common with other small birds that nest in similar positions she is often compelled to become the foster parent of one or more of the young of that feathered parasite, the cow-bird.

For some years previous to the summer of 1886, I had suspected that this species nested in different tracts of hardwood forest situated to the northwest of Listowel; and this idea rested on the fact that the song-notes of the male bird were often heard and frequently repeated in animating strains at a period when I thought the female should be nesting; but from the elevation at which this melody was emitted, I supposed that the nesting site of the female would also be at a high elevation from the ground, and I therefore had no expectation of discovering its nest among the low brushwood, in any of my wildwood rambles. However, on the afternoon of June 5th, 1886, when out in a tract of low, thick underwood, about a mile to the west of Wildwood, I found a nest with one egg, which at first I took to be one of a chestnutsided warbler, so much did it resemble the nest of that species in form, size, materials of composition, and situation. The egg also had a much similar appearance; but the different notes of the female owner of this nest soon attracted my attention, and I waited a short time till she came out of the thick foliage where she was concealed and approached the more open space where I was standing. Then I saw that she was quite a different species, and a more close examination of the nest showed that it was a more compactly formed structure than is usually made by the chestnut-sided bird, though the eggs of both species are much similar. The scolding notes of this bird soon brought her mate upon the scene, but he seemed more disposed to sport with her