

NESTING OF SOME CANADIAN WARBLERS.

By WM. L. KELLS, Listowell.

THE CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.

On the northern end of Wildwood Farm, which lies on the northwest of the town site of Listowell, there exists a tract of hardwood timbered forest of about seven acres in extent; but which, with that on the adjoining farm to the north, covers an area of over twenty acres. Most of this tract has a good natural drainage; but some parts towards the centre are low, and contain pools of stagnant water until after mid-summer. The greater part of this wooded tract is still in its primitive wildness; for though the larger timber of the forest of thirty years ago has been mostly removed, yet the subsequent growth is yearly increasing in size, though none of the trees are ever likely to attain the proportions of their ancestors of the "backwoods." In most parts of this woodland there is a thick growth of low, young underwood; which, when in full leaf, as it is at the end of May, is very dense, being also intermingled in most places with wild raspberry vines. Amid such scenery the chestnut-sided warbler evidently loves to make its summer haunts and home; for here, from the early days of May till summer time is over, its rather plaintive song-notes are daily heard, and here, for several years past, I have noted the nests of several of the species. On May 22nd of the past year (1900), not far distant from each other, I noted two newly formed nests of this bird. The first seen was deep in the underwood, and placed in the fork of a small bushy maple about twenty inches off the ground. This was so bulky and compactly built that at first I took it to be a nest of an Indigo Bird. It was formed of a kind of woody fiber gleaned from decayed timber, vines and grasses, and lined with long, black, horse-hair, which it must have taken the builder a good deal of time, with much trouble, to collect and place in position. On the above date this nest contained an egg of the cow-bird, which I removed and—five days after—it contained three eggs of the chestnut-sided warbler, and