

A Hermit Thrush's Nest.

F. Storm. Summer 1931.

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I began observing the nest on July 22nd. It had been reported the day before by Dr. Crosser.

The nest was located in an open space in the woods about 30 feet from the east shore of Round Lake. It was on the ground at the base of a clump of oak sprouts about three feet high. The ground surrounding the nest was covered with huckleberry and blueberry plants.

It was deeply cup shaped and was made of coarse grasses, with a lining of pine needles. The outer diameter was 4 inches and the inner was $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The outer and inner depths were 2 inches.

There were four blue-green eggs in the nest. They were about $\frac{7}{8}$ in. long and about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. at the larger ends.

The bird did not leave the nest until I was within four

feet of the nest.

On the following day someone was picking blueberries near the nest and the bird was not on the nest but returned within 30 minutes altho I was within 30 feet of the nest.

At 7:00 P.M. on July 25th I placed a tent blind four feet to the east of the nest.

On the following morning the bird left as I entered the blind but returned to a branch, near the nest, in 7 minutes but left again to return four minutes later directly to the nest where "she" sat, facing the blind, with the upper part of the head on a level with the top of the nest.

There was a strong breeze blowing from the lake and the blind flapped quite a bit but in spite of this the bird soon faced south but would face the blind a few moments before facing in another

direction. It was quite warm and the bird sat and panted with the bill open.

While I was in the blind three persons walked along the trail not more than four feet from the nest. The bird turned to face the direction from which the voice came and seemed ready to fly but remained on the nest.

On the evening of the same day, the bird remained on the nest as I entered the blind and seemed to observe the blind closely for a few minutes then faced to the north and began to breathe with open bill -

At 7:00 P.M. "she" looked around as if listening then moved to the edge of the nest and flew towards the blind, then south. Clear wingbeats were heard near by. In ten minutes "she" returned to the nest but I did not hear

her arrival. Ten minutes later I heard a hermit thrush singing a short distance east of the nest. The bird on the nest looked up when the first notes were heard but after that seemed to pay no attention to it but quietly picked an insect off the edge of the nest.

When voices were heard on the bench "she" looked up and seemed to listen attentively until the voices faded away.

Soon after this she stood in the nest, kept her head down and turned the eggs about in the nest then continued to sit quietly, snatching at insects that came within her reach.

The next evening (July 27th) I observed the nest before entering the blind. The bird left as I came to the nest but returned five minutes after I entered the blind. She approached cautiously,

to a bush six feet away, then flew to the bush over the nest and quietly sat on the nest.

During the two hours I observed the nest she turned the eggs twice and caught several insects that were near. A hermit thrush sang softly a short distance away. This continued intermittently for about a half hour.

During my observations I heard a hermit thrush once or twice times, both in the evening near seven o'clock.

On this same evening someone whistled loudly on the beach not far from the nest. The bird looked around then flew away. I remained in the blind for forty minutes but the bird did not return. On leaving I walked away to observe from behind a tree about forty feet away. As soon as I passed behind the tree a bird a bird

chirped loudly, several times, on a branch of a tree, almost above the nest. Two minutes later the bird flew down to the nest.

A few minutes after that I heard a call a short distance east of the nest. It was a sharp whistle. ~~There~~ it repeated at least six times.

One evening the bird left as I entered the blind. It was a quiet evening and the bird heard me enter the blind.

I left the blind and observed the nest from behind a tree trunk about forty feet north of the nest. I had been there only a few minutes when a squirrel began a loud chattering which was kept up for ten minutes. I threw a stick up into the tree and the squirrel left the tree. The bird did not return during the ten minutes I

Examined after the animal left.
On the afternoon of August 1st
I examined the nest before entering
the birds and found two eggs
fresh. The young birds had
been laid. It says that
down covered their heads and
the middle of their backs.
Two were the seventh day after
the nest was discovered.
The parent bird did not
return to the nest after I
entered the hole. The young
birds kept sitting for three
minutes their feet apart. During
the thirty minutes I stayed I
heard wings and flying over
the hole and over the hole
nest on the tent pole near
the nest. When I left the hole
a hornet threw up sitting
on a pole about twenty feet
north of the nest but did not
return to the nest after I
went out of sight and returned

ten minutes later.

The next morning, August 2nd, the bird remained on the nest as I entered the blind. I heard a soft keeping. - On examining the nest an hour later I found a third little bird. The fourth egg had a fine bird that seemed almost ready to hatch. I had slightly cracked the shell four days before as I was examining the egg.

On the evening of the same day someone went with me to the nest. The bird took no notice of the blind after the other person got out of sight.

"She" stood up and seemed to attend the birds after which "she" looked around carefully then flew away to return five minutes later but did not enter the nest. This may have been another thrush as none had returned to the nest

Twenty minutes later when I left
the blinds.

Five young birds peeped a
few seconds after the parent left
and stretched their heads
up with wide open mouths.

Then they quietly settled down.

On the late afternoon of
August 3rd when we came to
the nest to take pictures of
the nest and the young birds
we found only the unhatched
egg. This was cold.

There was no evidence of
a struggle that could give
me a clue as to the fate of
the young birds.

We took the nest and
the remaining egg to the
laboratory.