

### **XIII. A STUDY OF A NESTING OF MAGNOLIA WARBLERS**

#### **Abstract**

**Margaret Morse Nice,  
Norman, Okla.**

In Pelham, Mass., on June 19, 1925, I found an unfinished nest of a Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) in a juniper bush 32 inches from the ground. The three eggs were laid June 22, 23, 24; the female did all the incubating while the male devoted himself to singing. After 12 days the eggs hatched into tiny blind young, naked except for minute tufts of down.

I watched the nest from one to four and a half hours each day from the hatching of the young for nine days—26½ hours in all. During the first four days the female brooded from about one half to one third of the time the nest was observed; but only twice during the last five days. The male never brooded. The female always left the nest at the approach of her mate.

The rate of feeding varied from once every 30 minutes to once every 3.3 minutes, averaging once every 7.8 minutes. Thus each of the three young were fed on an average once every 23 minutes during the 26½ hours they were watched. Almost all the food given consisted of soft green larvae.

The female was more timid than the male. The attention that the male paid to the young increased from zero on the first day to moderate interest on the second, equal zeal with his mate on the third day and afterwards to decidedly greater devotion than hers. He was in full song the first three days, practically silent the next four, in full song on the 8th, but nearly silent again on the 9th and 10th days. On July 14 he uttered 384 songs from 7:50 to 10:50 A. M.; singing was recorded during 78 of the 180 minutes.