

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Unusual nesting site of Yellow-rumped Warbler: On 18 May 1980 a hotel guest reported a Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) building a nest on a balcony outside Room 329 of the Mohonk Mountain House at Mohonk Lake, New Paltz, Ulster County. I pursued the report with skepticism, expecting to find an Eastern Phoebe or Barn Swallow, but the guest was right. The nest was located on a horizontal wooden beam that supports the roof eave of a balcony on the northwest side of the Mountain House building. The distance to the ground was 35 feet. The nest itself was always in shade, and the surrounding woodwork was a medium green color. The male and female were both seen. The female, when flushed, would perch on a rocking chair a few feet away. On 27 May the nest contained four eggs, and on 2 June five. The eggs had hatched by 11 June, and two young were seen flying from the nest on 20 June.

Bull (*Birds of New York State*, 1974, p. 486) states that the species is a "common breeder at higher elevations, but rare southward; most numerous in the Adirondacks." Harrison (*A Field Guide to Birds' Nests*, 1975, p. 186) says that nests are typically in conifers, occasionally in deciduous trees. Twenty feet is an average height above ground, and four or five eggs are usual.

The Yellow-rumped Warbler has made news at Mohonk Lake once before. At the turn of the century, according to Bull, it was confined as a breeding bird to the Adirondacks and Catskills, and was first reported nesting outside the mountains, in Clinton Co., in 1922. In 1952 it was discovered nesting at Mohonk Lake and the nearby Lake Awosting (elevations 1,250 and 1,867 feet), these being the southernmost nest records in New York State. If this adaptation to a man-made structure is more than a fluke, the comparative safety of such a nest site could conceivably lead to a further expansion of range and population.

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