

Roadrunner Geococcyx californianus

The roadrunner is a cuckoo that runs on the ground. He is not endowed with the power for sustained flight although he can take to the wing for short distances when hard pressed or to gain a perch in a bush or cactus. He is found in semiarid regions and deserts of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico where he lives on lizards, small rodents, insects, and fledgling birds. He possesses an erectile crest and a long tail which he controls expressively. He has a voice like a dove and when alarmed clatters his bill.

Orange-crowned Warbler Vermivora celata

Orange-crowned warblers breed in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northern New Mexico where the Gambel's oaks intermix with aspens and ponderosa pines at medium altitudes. After days of listening to this bird's reedy trill, finding the author, following him through chaparral thickets, losing sight of him, and finding him again I finally discovered his nest beneath a flowering buckthorn bush on the side of a ravine nestled in last year's oak leaves.

Blue-winged Warblers Vermivora pinus

Blue-winged and their close relations the golden-winged are warblers of the deciduous swampy woodlands of the eastern United States. They build their nests on the ground well concealed under forest floor vegetation and in grassy tussocks. These two species are known to hybridize where they occur together, producing off-spring of two types intermediate in plumage between their parents. This nest was found in southern Michigan.

Blackburnian Warblers Dendroica fusca

# This The only wood warbler with bright orange on the head and throat, and black and white body and wings is considered by many birders to be the most beautiful of the American warblers. Its song is a series of high-pitched notes ending in an even higher-pitched buzz. In summer blackburnians inhabit coniferous forests of pine or spruce where they build their nests high in the trees.

Blackburnian Warblers cont.

*pitch-pine*  
This nest, concealed in dense foliage near the end of a branch  
*twenty-five* 25 feet above the ground ~~on a pitch pine~~ in northern New  
Hampshire, was discovered by watching the birds as they carried  
food to their young.