

**CARRIE GREEN**  
**Kentucky Warbler (PLATE LXVII)**

As always, Virginia begins  
with what's before her:

the lining's dark swirl  
of rootlets and horse hair,

the rim of vines,  
the foundation of dead leaves.

She closes her eyes to summon  
the sapling keeping watch,

the oak and elm leaves  
decaying on the forest floor,

piled high as the nest,  
circling it like a drain.

It's only after she's added  
three eggs to the center

that she sees the nest  
for what it is:

a tunnel inside her grief,  
the eggs peering up like eyes

from the dust below.

**Note on the poems: After her death from typhoid at age 32, Genevieve Jones' family completed her book, *Illustrations of the Nests and Eggs of Birds of Ohio* (published by subscription, 1879-1886). Before beginning work on the project, Genevieve's mother, Virginia, had no experience with ornithology, scientific illustration, or creating lithographs.**