

*Geothlypis*  
*formosa*

SBv 17A1.9 (12)

v. 13

Some New Records for Nova Scotia.— Among a small lot of bird skins sent to me from Sable Island, Nova Scotia, by Mr. Jas. McL. Boucher, I find no less than five species that are new to the Province and two others whose presence is purely accidental although previously recorded. Almost without exception the birds are young of the year, which goes to prove that young birds are most frequently lost, and as all of them were captured in the fall, it is extremely probable that they were carried along far out of their bearings by autumnal storms. It is well established that most accidental visitors in the East are taken in the fall, and the movement of storm centres in a northeasterly track east of the Mississippi undoubtedly has a close bearing upon such captures.

*Geothlypis formosa*. KENTUCKY WARBLER.— A young male taken September 1, 1902, is in first winter plumage as determined by softening the skin and examining the bones. The nearest point at which the species regularly breeds is New Jersey.

Jonathan Dwight, Jr., M. D., New York City.

Proc. U. S. Geol. Surv., 1903, p. 439-440.

Notes from Yafstville, Vt.  
by, G. O. Tracy.

Kentucky Warbler, (*Oporornis formosa*) | May 19th  
noted by me the past season for the first  
time at this place  
O. & O. X. Jan. 1885. p. 10.

Lunenburg, Vermont.

The Kentucky Warbler in Vermont.— A specimen of the Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosa*), was taken May 30, 1905, at Lunenburg, Vt., by Mr. W. E. Balch and identified at the Biological Survey. The specimen is now in the Fairbanks Museum at St. Johnsbury.

This is probably the first authentic record for the State.— WELLS W. COOKE, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

*Auk* 25, July - 1908 p. 320.

**A Kentucky Warbler near Boston, Massachusetts.**— At Wellesley Hills, in the forenoon of May 14, 1907, having just left the electric car and passed in the rear of the stores and dwellings which front on the little village square, I came to a swampy hollow with some depth of standing water almost surrounded by large willows and with small willows and other brush growth rising out of the water. Here clearly distinguished from familiar warbler songs which at once reached my ear from Parula, Myrtle and Yellow Warblers, Redstart and Northern Water-Thrush was heard a clear, bright, rather loud song in dissyllabic rhythm which I had never heard before. Before coming in sight of the bird which gave it, it was my happy experience to realize that I was looking upon and hearing the song of a Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosa*). The song was many times given at intervals during the half-hour which I remained. There were generally five repetitions of the dissyllable without notes of introduction or finish. It might be put into the word, *wheeter-wheeter-wheeter-wheeter wheeter*, as Mr. Allison suggests in Mr. Chapman's 'Warblers of North America,' or other dissyllables such as others suggest therein, or into the words, *cherry-cherry-cherry-cherry-cherry*, rapidly repeated, as it came to my ear. The fulness and brightness of tone were like the Mourning Warbler's *cheery* song, which, however, is given with more fulness and deliberation and with three repetitions of *cheery* only. Under my observation the Kentucky Warbler moved back and forth in a quite limited area, often about the roots and stems of the bushes just above the water, a very beautifully plumaged bird. Mr. Bradford Torrey's expressions of admiration for the simplicity and richness and good taste of its costume seemed none too enthusiastic.

Passing on from this point the first Blackburnian and Black-throated Blue Warblers of the season were noted, the first Yellow-throated, Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos were seen, and the Prairie and Golden-winged Warblers were found in their breeding haunts. The morning of May 14 had opened with light southwest winds and a temperature of 56°, which had been carried in the middle of the forenoon to 78°. It was under these conditions that I found the Kentucky Warbler active and freely singing. Presently a sudden change was inaugurated in five minutes' time, the wind came fresh from the east, and the temperature dropped 20°. This had a quieting effect upon all of the birds, and when I passed on the Kentucky was no longer singing. At four o'clock in the afternoon I returned to this same spot and could not see or hear anything of him. So it was again the next forenoon when I sought him. The other birds of the day before were there, but he was not.

Messrs. Howe and Allen in 'The Birds of Massachusetts,' 1901, do not include the Kentucky Warbler in their list, but in a note make reference to a bird of this species being included in Dr. Holder's 'List of the Birds of Lynn,' 1846, as then in the collection of the Lynn Natural History Society, adding, "as we have been unable to see this specimen we make but this mention of it." Dr. Charles W. Townsend in 'The Birds of Essex County,' 1905, does not include this species in his list, remarking, "Dr. Holder includes this bird in his Lynn list, 1846, stating that there is a specimen in the

collection of the Lynn Natural History Society. As there is no other record of this bird for the State, and as I was unable to find this specimen in a recent examination of the battered remains of this collection, I have omitted the bird from the list."

This Kentucky Warbler at Wellesley Hills would seem, therefore, to be the first authentic record of the species within the State.

In 'A Review of the Birds of Connecticut' by Mr. C. Hart Merriam, 1877, two records of Kentucky Warbler within that State are given, namely: "Mr. Erwin I. Shores obtained a male of this species at Suffield, Conn., Aug. 16, 1876, thus adding another bird, not only to the Avifauna of Connecticut, but also to New England"; and "I learn from Mr. J. G. Ely of Lyne, Conn., that he has shot one Kentucky Warbler." Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., in 'The Auk,' Vol. XX, October, 1903, under the heading, 'Some New Records for Nova Scotia,' based on a small lot of bird skins sent to him from Sable Island by Mr. Jas. McL. Boucher, furnishes this note on Kentucky Warbler: "A young male taken September 1, 1902, is in first winter plumage as determined by softening the skin and examining the bones. The nearest point at which the species regularly breeds is New Jersey."—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

*Auk*, 24, July, 1907, 344-346.

**Kentucky Warbler in Massachusetts.**— On June 22, 1913, while walking in the Arnold Arboretum, at Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, the writer heard the call note of a warbler followed almost immediately by a song very much different from that of the regular local members of the family. The bird was finally placed in a low moist spot which was covered with rather a heavy growth of high bushes near some oak trees and a spring. I was very much surprised when it proved to be a finely plumaged male Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*). The bright yellow underparts and the black stripe running down the side of the throat were quite conspicuous. The black crown was not so plain, although the yellow about the eye was easily seen. There was not any white evident in the plumage. The warbler was observed from about 12.30 to 1.15 p. m. and was in song most all of the time. The notes seemed to the writer to be rather like two of those of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula calendula*), also recalled the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*). The song was a loud clear whistle of three or four double notes. While under observation the bird did not at any time perch above twenty feet from the ground nor did it fly over a rod from the place where it was first seen. Once I approached to within six feet of it.

Supposing at the time that this was the first record of an *Oporornis formosus* for Massachusetts and desiring corroboration I telephoned to Mr. Richard M. Marble of Brookline, who, with Mr. Joseph Kittredge, Jr., also of Brookline, met me in the Arboretum, that same afternoon. The bird was soon found and both Mr. Marble and Mr. Kittredge identified it as a male Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*). The late date, June 22, led me to look for some signs of breeding, but although I searched for several days afterwards I was unable to find even the bird.

This appears to be the second record for Massachusetts, as Mr. Horace W. Wright reports one at Wellesley on May 14, 1907 (Auk, July, 1907).— HAROLD L. BARRETT, *Jamaica Plain, Mass.* ~~1913~~ 30. Oct. 1918. p. 527.

### General Notes

Occurrence and Breeding of the Kentucky Warbler in Connecticut.—  
On July 10, 1892, while passing through a piece of swampy woods in  
Greenwich, Fairfield Co., Conn., my ear was caught by an unfamiliar  
bird note in the underbrush near the path. A short search revealed a  
bird which I soon saw to be the Kentucky Warbler. Not having a gun at  
hand, I watched her for some time, suspecting from her manifest alarm  
that young were near at hand. Such proved to be the case, as a few min-  
utes later I saw her feeding a well-fledged nestling, perched near by.

Returning at dusk, I was fortunate enough to find, a few hundred feet  
from the former locality, one of the parents, which I secured. It proved  
to be the male. The female and the young I was unable to find on either  
this or the several succeeding occasions on which I looked for them. This  
is, I think, the first record of its breeding in Connecticut.—CLARK G.  
VOORHEES, *New York City*. *Auk* X, Jan, 1893. p. 86.

### Notes.

On May 30, 1888, I shot a fine ♂ Kentucky Warbler.  
I have never known of one being taken in this locality,  
and consider it a rarity. W. H. Lucas, West Stratford,  
Conn.

O. & O. XIV, Apr. 1889 p. 62

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER (*Oporornis formosus*) AT SING SING, N. Y.  
 — At this place, in June, 1875, I found the nest, containing three fresh eggs, and secured the two old birds of this species.† The woods where they were found is a long belt, which lies on both sides of a stream which originally must have been much larger. It has worn away ravines some thirty or forty feet deep; in other places it has expanded into shallow flats. The length of the stream is about three miles, and it runs in a ravine through the very heart of our village, and empties into the Hudson. The stream now is quite small, and the level places along the banks of the upper portion are covered by weeds, ferns, and scanty undergrowth. The woods which overhang the stream along its course, only broken now and then by a field or pasture, are composed of large hemlock, oak, and chestnut trees, under which there is little undergrowth, and the rays of the sun hardly penetrate their thick foliage, making a cool and shady retreat. Here, this spring and summer, seemed the very paradise for the Kentucky Warbler. While collecting, May 21, I saw four flitting here and there among the small plants, and secured two; May 22 I collected four more; the 24th, four were seen, and I shot three; the 27th, I saw two; on the 29th, a mile up the stream, I saw another, and my friend, Mr. George Hyles, shot one still higher up. June 1 and 4 I saw a pair near where the first ones were seen, and on the 20th of June found their nest containing five young, which left it June 29. June 9, in a woods some miles distant, I saw a male. June 26 I saw still another, and from its actions it must have had a nest or young near, but from want of time I did not look for it. July 5 a male came under my window, and, perching on a shrub, warbled out his short but lovely song. The same day Mr. Hyles saw a male four miles south of this place. Allowing the same ones were sometimes seen twice, there have been at least sixteen individuals here, and undoubtedly four nests. — A. K. FISHER, *Sing Sing, N. Y.*

† Am. Nat., Vol. IX, No. 10, October, 1875, p. 573.

**Bull. N.O.C. 3, Oct., 1878, p. 191-192.**

**Bird Notes from Long Island, N. Y.**  
 William Dutcher.

16. *Geothlypis formosa*. KENTUCKY WARBLER.—Mr. Giraud says: "The specimen in my possession was shot in the woods at Raynor South, —and a few others have been procured in the same section. On no other part of the Island have I observed it, and I consider it with us a very scarce species."\* In the Lawrence collection in the American Museum, there is one specimen, a male, labelled, "Raynor South, May 18, 1834." Since the lists of Giraud and Lawrence were published no other record has been made; therefore, it gives me pleasure to record a specimen, a male, which was sent to me by Mr. Skipworth from Fire Island Light, where it struck during the night of August 19, 1888; wind west, squally, with rain and fog.

\*Birds of Long Island, p. 59.

**Auk, VI. April, 1889, p. 139.**

General Notes

*the occurrence in Summer of certain Warblers at Bearers*  
*Summ.*

*Geothlypis formosa*.—This bird, which I have previously recorded as a rare summer resident, I found to be fairly abundant, in suitable situations, throughout the season of 1891, as well as during the week from June 13 to 18, 1892, inclusive, which I spent there, so that it seems not improbable that it was overlooked in previous seasons. Towards the close of May, 1891, I discovered a nest, containing one egg, but it was soon afterward invaded by a Cowbird, and deserted. Young out of the nest were found during my visit in 1892. *Arthur H. Howell, Brooklyn, N. Y.*

**Auk X, April, 1893, p. 209.**

**Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.**

*Geothlypis formosa*. KENTUCKY WARBLER.—This specimen was shot by Col. Pike in Lotts Woods, Flatlands, in May. He considers them rare on Long Island, and has not seen a specimen for some years.

**Auk X, July, 1893, p. 277.**

*Evidence of Carolinian Fauna in Hudson  
Valley, from observations made at Riverdale, N. Y.*

*E. P. Bicknell.*

**Oporornis formosus.** KENTUCKY WARBLER. — Have taken but one specimen in the vicinity, an adult male on May 30, 1875. Mr. J. Wallace informs me that this species occurs during the breeding-season, at Fort Lee, N. J., and that some years since a nest and five eggs with the female bird was taken at that locality. Has been found breeding at Sing Sing, by Mr. A. K. Fisher, N. Y.\*

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\* Am. Nat., Vol. IX, p. 573.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, July, 1878, p. 130.

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

36. *Oporornis formosa*.

"*First plumage.* Remiges, rectrices, primary coverts, and alulae as in the adult. Pileum and back dull raw-umber-brown, tinged with rusty on the back and scapulars; throat, jugulum, breast, and sides pale grayish-fulvous, the abdomen and crissum paler, and slightly tinged with yellow. *No markings of any sort about the head.* My collection, Mt. Carmel, Ill., July 27, 1875." — R. R.

Bull. N. O. C., 3, April, 1878. p. 60.

Nesting of the Kentucky Warbler in  
Chester and Delaware Counties,  
Penn.

Having been quite fortunate in finding nests of this Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*) during the past season I thought that my experiences might be of interest to the readers of the O. & O.

Another year's collecting leads me to think that my assertion, that the Kentucky Warbler probably bred more commonly in these two counties than anywhere else, was correct.

To a practised person the nest of this bird is not very difficult to find, unless it should be placed on a hillside.

They begin to breed often about the 18th of May. Some nests found by me this year must have had their full complement of eggs by the 20th of May. Then on the other hand my last set was taken on the 18th of June, and my brother took a set of four fresh eggs on the 25th of June, and a nest was found on the 15th of July with young birds, so there is often a difference of a month between the incubation of different pairs.

On the 21st of May I found my first nest this year. It was just finished, and I secured a fine set of five eggs exactly one week later (the 28th) from it.

It was placed at the bottom and between the forks of a spicewood bush and was a very bulky nest. The ♀ was not on the nest, and I presume had just laid one of the eggs that morning. It was not more than ten yards from the edge of the woods. When I was packing up the eggs and nest there was no sign of the birds around, but when I again passed the spot about fifteen minutes later both birds were making a great noise.

The second nest was found on the 25th of May, and contained two eggs of the warbler and one of that pest, the Cowbird. I had been

looking for this nest for about two or three hours before I succeeded in finding it. The birds had been making a great deal of noise, and had been jumping up every few minutes from a clump of swamp cabbage. As there was a great deal of this plant in the woods and the wood was a large one, it can easily be seen that it was no easy matter to find that nest. At last I happened to glance down at a certain clump which contained the nest, but was somewhat disgusted to find it only had two eggs and one Cowbird. However, I secured four eggs of the warbler and the Cowbird's egg from it on the 28th. The ♀ flushed very close and did not go more than ten feet from the nest while I was packing it up.

The third nest was also found on the 28th of May and contained four fresh eggs. This was also near the edge of a wood, not being more than six feet from the fence. This one, like nearly all the others, was at the foot and between the forks of a spicewood bush. A peculiarity about this nest was that it was lined with white horse-hair, instead of the black rootlets and horse-hair one almost invariably finds in nests of this species. This last nest was the third I had found that day and in a joking sort of way I said to my brother, "I am going out now to make it four."

I walked to the nearest woods and had hardly gotten inside of it when I found another nest, this time with five eggs, which were incubated a few days. This one was situated in about the last place I ever expected to find a Kentucky Warbler's nest. It was not more than twenty-five yards from a public road where there is a great deal of travel, and it was not nearly as well hidden as usual, as you could almost see the nest from the road.

On the 30th of May my father, my brother and myself started out for a day's trip. My brother found a fine set of five, but unfortunately they were nearly hatched and it was impossible to prepare them. This nest was situated right on the edge of a road with woods on each side of it, and my brother flushed the female.

My fifth set was taken on the first of June and consisted of four eggs. It was situated like all the others, and I flushed the ♀.

The sixth set was taken on the 3d of June, and contained four eggs of the warbler and one of the Cowbird. This nest was not more than fifteen feet from a large field on the edge of a wood. Bird flushed.

I did not take any more sets until the 18th of June when I took my seventh and last set of four eggs, although I found three more nests containing young birds and two which apparently the birds had deserted.

My brother, Henry Norris, took a set of four eggs on the 25th of June. The nest was not more than six feet from a public road where at least a hundred wagons go past every day, and the wood was very small.

Result of season's collecting: Myself, five sets of four, two sets of five, five nests not yielding any sets, three with young birds and two deserted. My brother found one set of four, one of five (too much incubated to prepare), and four nests with young birds. Total, eight sets, seven nests with young birds and two deserted. Not a bad season's work, and I hope to do better next year.

J. P. Norris, Jr.

Philadelphia, Pa.

O. & O., 15, Oct. 1890, p. 145-146.

328. *Kentucky Warbler.*  
O. and O. Short note on its nest and eggs

310. *Kentucky Warbler* [C  
By F. T. Jencks. *Ibid.*, VI, p.

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328. *Kentucky Warbler*. By Edgar A. Small. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 64.—  
O. and O.

310. *Kentucky Warbler* [*Oporornis formosa*]. *Its Nesting Habits*. O. and O.  
By F. T. Jencks. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 49.

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No. 1.

### A Series of Eggs of the Kentucky Warbler.

The eggs of the Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*) exhibit great variation in size, shape, and coloration, and while the series now before me does not exhibit all their types it is sufficiently complete to warrant description.

Set I. June 1, 1890. Chester County, Penn. Collected by J. P. Norris, Jr. Nest on ground, in woods, at foot of small bush, not more than ten feet from a fence. Made of leaves, lined with rootlets. ♀ flushed. Four eggs, incubation commenced. White, speckled with hazel and lavender-gray. Three of the eggs have the markings nearly all at the larger ends in the shape of indistinct wreaths, but the fourth one is much more pointed than the others, and has a wreath around the smaller end: .79 x .59; .78 x .58; .76 x .59; .76 x .59.

Set II. May 28, 1890. Chester County, Penn. Collected by J. P. Norris, Jr. Nest at foot of spicewood bush, on ground, in low woods. Made of leaves, dried grass, etc., lined with fine black rootlets and white horse-hair. Bird seen. Four eggs, fresh. White, speckled and spotted, principally at the larger ends, with fawn color: .71 x .56; .72 x .55; .74 x .56; .71 x .55.

Set III. June 19, 1885. Delaware County, Penn. Collected by J. Hoopes Matlack. Nest of dried grasses and beech leaves, on the ground, in thicket of young underwood. Four eggs, fresh. White, spotted and speckled with chestnut and lavender-gray: .77 x .56; .79 x .57; .78 x .56; .75 x .56.

Set IV. May 28, 1890. Chester County, Penn. Collected by J. P. Norris, Jr. Nest between leaves of "Skunk Cabbage," on ground, in woods. Made of leaves, dried grass, etc., lined with black rootlets. ♀ flushed. Four eggs, fresh, and one Cowbird's egg. Light creamy white, speckled and

spotted with chestnut and lavender-gray. The markings are heavier near the larger ends, where they form indistinct wreaths: .74 x .60; .72 x .60; .72 x .60; .71 x .60.

Set V. June 7, 1889. Chester County, Penn. Collected by J. P. Norris, Jr. Nest between three forks at foot of small bush. Made of leaves and grass, lined with horse-hair and black rootlets. Bird seen. Five eggs, fresh. Light creamy white, speckled and spotted with hazel and lavender-gray. At the larger ends the markings are heavier, and form indistinct wreaths: .78 x .60; .81 x .61; .81 x .60; .78 x .61; .79 x .60.

Set VI. June 9, 1885. Collected by J. Hoopes Matlack. Nest on ground, in thicket of young underwood. Composed of dry grass and beech leaves. Four eggs, fresh. Glossy, light creamy white. Heavily spotted, especially at the larger ends, with chestnut and lavender-gray: .79 x .59; .77 x .59; .77 x .58; .78 x .56.

Set VII. June 18, 1890. Chester County, Penn. Collected by J. P. Norris, Jr. Nest on ground, at foot of weed, in woods, near a fence and a dried up stream. Made of leaves, etc., lined with black rootlets and horse-hair. White, spotted and speckled more heavily at the larger ends, with hazel and lavender-gray: .82 x .57; .79 x .57; .80 x .56; .83 x .56.

Set VIII. June 3, 1890. Chester County, Penn. Collected by J. P. Norris, Jr. Nest at foot of spicewood bush, in woods, twenty-five feet from their edge. Made of leaves, dried grass, etc., lined with black rootlets. ♀ flushed. Four eggs, incubation commenced. (This set also contained a Cowbird's egg.) White, spotted all over, but more heavily at the larger ends, with chestnut and lavender-gray: .74 x .56; .71 x .55; .70 x .54; .71 x .54.

Set IX. May 28, 1888. Chester County, Penn. Collected by Samuel B. Ladd. Nest on the ground. Made of leaves, with fine

nderbrush is sufficient to afford it its favorite shelter for a Summer home.

Although the habits of the Kentucky Warbler are well known, and excellent descriptions of its nests and eggs are published, it is so retiring in the breeding season that its eggs have found a way to comparatively few oological collections. My experience is that the nest is difficult to find. I have spent hours in watching the birds and searching for the nest without success. The few nests that I have found have been the result of accident rather than the reward of my diligence.

At this place they arrive from the south about May 1. My earliest record is April 30; my latest is May 3. They soon pair and begin to look about for a building site, at this time the male is a diligent and rather loud singer, and keeps the woods ringing with his "*tree-dle, tree-dle, tree-dle.*" If disturbed, both birds resent any approach by their usual sharp "tship" repeated at intervals as

as one continues moving about in their vicinity; but should one conceal himself and remain quiet, they disappear noiselessly in the thickets and the song of the male is soon again heard. I presume that the female could be just as musical were she so disposed, but that the cares of house building occupy most of the time at her disposal.

Many a pair of these Warblers have I watched, and although I was certain that the nest was in the near vicinity, I have almost uniformly failed to discover it. Once, after visiting a locality at odd times for several weeks, I really found the nest; but the young had just deserted it. In fact, I started the last one away. This was on June 26, 1883. The nest was almost under the top of a fallen tree. It was built in plain view at the foot of a small shrub. Although I must have passed a dozen times within a few feet, I had failed to discover it. It was on the ground in a mass of dry leaves. The chief material was leaves, but the lining was of grass and long horse-hair. It

the most neatly built nest of the species I have yet seen.

My first nest of this Warbler was found on May 26, 1883. I was passing along an unused wood-road in a low, damp forest, intent upon finding a Poor-will which had alighted in the vicinity, when I was startled by the flutter of wings at my feet. On looking down, I saw within a foot of me the nest for which I had often looked. The female Warbler had perched upon a low branch about two rods distant and was tilting and balancing like a Water-thrush, while it uttered its sharp note of alarm. The nest contained two eggs of the Warbler and one of the Cow-bird. Although incubation had begun, I left the nest two days hoping to be rewarded with a larger

### The Kentucky Warbler.

(*Oporornis formosa*,) (Wilson,) Baird.

BY D. E. L., MANHATTAN, KANSAS.

The Kentucky Warbler is a common Summer resident of the timbered portion of Kansas, being more abundant in the south-eastern part. Manhattan is near the western boundary of the range assigned to it by ornithologists, it having been taken at Fort Riley, a point about twenty miles west. But it is so common a bird at Manhattan that I doubt not that it is a regular visitor west of Fort Riley, wherever the growth of timber and

set, but was disappointed. The nest was on the ground at the foot of a bunch of tall weeds. It was composed outside of leaves and within of rootlets, grass, and horse-hair. The eggs were white and sprinkled about the larger end with fine reddish-brown dots.

On May 31, 1884, when collecting about twelve miles from Manhattan on Deep Creek a tributary of the Kansas river, I found a nest of this Warbler. This nest was also upon the ground, or rather upon a large mass of decayed leaves. The nest was protected by a bunch of low shrubbery and the leaning tops of a small sapling. It was composed of a rude foundation of the leaves, and lined with a thin layer of fine grass (*agrotis*) and horse-hair. It was very carelessly built, hardly deserving the name of nest. It contained three eggs, one of the Warbler and two of the Cow-bird. Another Warbler's egg was on the ground at a little distance from the nest. This had evidently been removed by the Cow-bird to make room for its own. Incubation had begun in the other eggs. I have always found the Cow-bird eggs to accompany those of this species. On June 18, I met a family of these birds consisting of the parent birds, two young Warblers and a young Cow-bird. The parents were equally solicitous for all the young, and fed them industriously, notwithstanding I was quite near to them.

Eggs of the Kentucky Warbler average about .73 by .56 of an inch. The birds leave for the south early in September.

O. & O. X, Feb. 1885, p. 19-20.  
Florida Bird Life.

PART II.

BY E. M. HASBROUCK.

In my former communication (O. & O., X, p. 4), I stated that I should try and make the rest of my articles more interesting, and this I hope to do. I find that I am not far enough south for the Ibises, Spoonbills &c., &c., but intend going where they are to be found in the Spring. At present I must stay where chance has placed me. Let me commence with:—

Oct. 20. Virginia Quail, (*Ortyx virginianus*). These birds are very numerous here, and may be found in coveys of from ten to twenty within a ten minutes walk in any direction.

Oct. 20. Mockingbirds, (*Mimus polyglottus*), are as numerous here as Robins at the North, and much tamer; their song seems to be made up of the songs of all the other birds put together.

Oct. 22. Red-bellied Woodpecker, (*Centurus carolinus*), are very common in the pine lands and swamps. They may be recognized by their harsh, rasping, guttural "chip."

can approach within easy view of his golden breast.

To find the nest and eggs of this beautiful bird has always been an object of great ambition to me, and though a number of them have been taken in this vicinity from time to time, never until the season of 1886 has it been my good fortune to discover them myself.

On the bright spring-like afternoon of June 1st, 1886, I left the train at Glen Mills, a little station in Delaware County, and plunged into the heavy timber growth, that covers the north side of a steep, long hill that rises rapidly from Chester Creek to its summit, several hundred yards in extent, and from the top of which spreads out one of the finest views of hill and valley in this beautiful county.

From amid the rich black loam and beds of withered leaves numerous springs arise, and

trickle down among the dense masses of fern and moss, and other vegetable growths that are more often found in swamps than on high woodlands; and in places immense rocks are piled up, giving an air of wildness to the spot. I had advanced but a few paces in my laborious search up the steep hill side, when I heard the musical note of a Kentucky Warbler some distance ahead, and inspired by the welcome sound, I proceeded toward the spot from whence it came.

Meanwhile the bird had become silent, but after a few minutes of careful search, inspecting every foot of ground as I proceeded, a bird flew almost from my feet, alighting on a bush some twenty feet away, uttering its sharp impatient chirp,—unmistakably a female Kentucky Warbler. Looking towards the ground, there, without concealment of any kind, more than that afforded by a few weeds and saplings, lay my long coveted prize—six eggs in a bulky mass,—elevated somewhat from the ground by the mass of dried leaves at its base. It was not even defiled by an egg of that skulking impostor, the Cow-bird.

Securing the nest and the eggs, in which incubation was a few days advanced, I considered myself well repaid, although later in the day, on the same day, I found a nest and six eggs of the Worm-eating Warbler (*Helminthoherus vermivorus*), though so nearly hatched that they were hardly capable of preservation.

There are some peculiarities about this set of eggs of the Kentucky Warbler, that render them quite different from any I have seen. In shape they are long, and they taper to a comparatively sharp point; the greatest diameter being quite near the larger end. As will be seen by

### Nesting of the Kentucky Warbler.

BY THOMAS A. JACKSON, WEST CHESTER, PA.

The Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) in this part of Pennsylvania is a frequent summer resident, and indeed in some localities, may almost be considered a common bird. Its arrival early in May is at once announced by the clear musical notes of the male, heard in the dense, swampy thickets or low lying marshy pieces of woodland which it delights to affect.

The birds at this time are not shy and suspicious like most of our warblers, but the males will sing, oblivious of your presence, until you

the measurements they vary much in size. To give an accurate description of the coloration would be a difficult task. The ground color is of a dull white, wreathed and sprinkled, more abundantly around the greater end, with spots of light purple running into dark brown, seemingly beneath the surface of the shell. Over these markings, and scattered over the entire shell, are points, blotches and streaks of a rich brown shade. The general appearance is plain, notably free from any of the bold markings common in this species. They measure, .80 x .63; .78 x .59; .78 x .60; .75 x .59; .76 x .58; and .75 x .59.

A description of the nest can be given with more accuracy than of the eggs. The entire body or bulk of it was composed of dead leaves of the white oak put together in a loose mass that stood above the ground six inches or more. The lining of the nest was made of the fine tendrils and stems of some creeping plant, with which I am not familiar, together with a small quantity of horse hair imbedded in the bottom but altogether so thin and flimsy that the leaves showed through. The nest is quite a large one measuring two inches in depth (inside) by three inches across the top.

O. & O. XII, Mar 1887, p 43-44

#### Some Birds of Heron Lake, Minn.

BY J. W. PRESTON, BAXTER, IOWA.

Of all the localities which it has been my privilege to visit, Heron Lake stands at the head of the list. To any one interested in the study of bird life who may have it in his power to spend a season there, I can assure an abundance of valuable material. From earliest migrant to late summer resident the region abounds in species.

The locality is a well-known rendezvous for sportsmen, for spring and fall shooting. Among other game-birds are found vast numbers of Canvas-back and Red-head Ducks. Both these species remain to breed, though not so plentifully as formerly. Here also may be found White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorants, an occasional pair of Ring-billed Gulls, besides very many species of ducks, mostly remaining to breed, and so abundant are many species that hundreds of nests may easily be found. A few pair of Pin-tail Duck remain during the summer and the nests may be expected in grassy places back from the lakes.

One pair at least, of Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) had hidden their treasures near the lak

NESTING OF THE KENTUCKY WARBLER (*Oporornis formosa*) IN OHIO.—Although the Kentucky Warbler has long been a well-known summer resident of Southwestern Ohio, its nest and eggs have hitherto eluded the vigilant search of our local ornithologists, and have, in consequence, been classed among their especial *desiderata*. As the nesting habits of this species have been recorded in but a few instances, and only once in Ohio,\* a notice of a nest and eggs recently taken near Madisonville may be of interest to readers of the Bulletin.

The locality chosen for this nest was a gentle slope, well wooded and covered with undergrowth, situated within a short distance of a small woodland stream on the border of an open glade. The nest, which was placed on the ground at the root of a small elm sapling, was concealed by a sparse growth of weeds, and consisted of two distinct portions. The foundation was a saucer-shaped mass of beech and maple leaves loosely interwoven with a few weed stems, and retained its shape sufficiently well to permit careful handling without injury; surmounting this basal portion was the nest proper, a rather bulky and inelegant structure, elliptical in shape, composed of dark-brown rootlets and weed stems, with which were interwoven a few dried leaves. There was also a trace of an effort at horse-hair lining, a half-dozen hairs perhaps being disposed around its interior. Its measurements are as follows:—Internal long diameter,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches; internal short diameter, 2 inches; depth of cavity,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches; average thickness of nest proper, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch; ditto of foundation, about 1 inch. The eggs, which are four in number (exclusive of the Cowbird's egg which accompanies them), are oblong-oval in shape, spotted and speckled everywhere with reddish-brown and lilac on a glossy white ground, the markings on two specimens being massed at the larger end, while those on the other two form a distinct "wreath" around the rather blunt apex. They were far advanced in incubation (May 28th), and measure, respectively,  $.72 \times .54$ ,  $.73 \times .56$ ,  $.75 \times .56$ ,  $.73 \times .55$ . Their identification was perfectly satisfactory, the female being secured instantly after being driven from the nest.—FRANK W. LANGDON, *Madisonville, Hamilton Co., Ohio.*

\* By Dr. J. P. Kirtland. I am unable to refer to the original record at present; it is mentioned incidentally, however, by Dr. Brewer, in *Hist. N. Am. Birds*, Vol. I, p. 293.

*Bull. N.O.C.* 4, Oct., 1878, p. 236-237.

**Obs. on Summer Birds of Mountain  
Pors. Pickens Co, S.C. L. M. Loomis.**

61. *Geothlypis formosa*. KENTUCKY WARBLER.—Indifferent to elevation, these Warblers are everywhere abundant in the wooded hollows, coves, and ravines; these shady retreats constituting their true haunts, though during the cooler hours of the day individuals stray from the near proximity of the water courses to the sunny slopes of the adjacent hillsides. During the height of the season they have few rivals in persistency of song, but as June advances, and the young begin to be abroad, they sing with rather less frequency, though not with less force and spirit. Besides their loud chant, so commonly uttered, I think they have a second and more pleasing song, but of this I cannot speak with certainty, as I never succeeded in detecting one in the act of singing, for the song was repeated only at rare intervals, and always in the seclusion of the rhododendrons, but each attempt to discover the author invariably developed a Kentucky Warbler in the spot whence the sound had issued. When their haunts are invaded, they resent intrusion with loud querulous chirps which are as distinctive as their song notes. Though of retiring disposition, especially early in the season, when their young are hatched they often challenge observation by exhibiting themselves with boldness. The first bird of the year was shot June 20.

*Auk*, VII, April, 1890, p. 129.

### Nesting of the Kentucky Warbler in Chester County, Penn.

Messrs. Samuel B. Ladd, Thomas H. Jackson, and Hoopes Matlaek have all found the nest of the Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosa*) quite frequently in both Chester and Delaware Counties. It probably breeds more abundantly in these two counties than anywhere else in its entire habitat.

On June 25, 1888, I found my first nest of this Warbler. I was walking through a large, swampy woods, when I noticed a Kentucky Warbler acting as if it had a nest. This I soon found, and just as I was going to look in it the young birds fluttered out. The nest was placed on the ground at the foot of a small bush, in a little glen or hollow well sheltered by trees, about twenty or more feet above a stream of running water. Altogether, it was about as pretty and easy a situation as one could well imagine.

The nest was a beautiful structure, large, and composed externally of dead beech and other leaves, and prettily lined with fine black rootlets.

I determined to go back to this woods this year, and in accordance with this determination, on the 21st of May, 1889, I went there and looked through part of the woods without success. On the 25th of the same month I returned there, and this time was more successful, for before I had been in the woods ten minutes a Kentucky Warbler flew out of a clump of "Skunk Cabbage," about fifteen feet from where I was. After a short search I found the nest. It was placed between the forks and at the foot of a "Spicewood" bush, and among the "Skunk Cabbage." It contained one egg of the Warbler and two Cowbird's eggs.

Owing to the presence of the Cowbird's eggs in the nest I was afraid the female would not lay a full set, and I very foolishly took the two eggs of the Cowbird out of the nest. Almost as soon as I had done this I regretted it, and the result showed my mistake, for when, on the 30th of May, I returned my worst expectations were realized. The bird had not only deserted the nest but had broken the egg also!

Thinking that the bird might have begun to build another nest in the same woods I looked about, and after awhile I found another which I at first supposed was the second nest of the pair whose nest was deserted, but I found afterwards that I was mistaken. Although I was very careful not to touch this nest it was deserted also.

On the 2d of June, in another woods I found my fourth nest. It contained one egg. This nest was placed on the ground between the forks of a small bush, like the others, but it was on a hillside about thirty feet above a stream.

I thought that I would certainly get a set from this nest, but another disappointment was in store for me, for on returning on the 6th of June I found the nest deserted and the egg broken.

Going on from this woods to the other where I had found nests Nos. 1, 2, and 3, I found that as I mentioned before the birds had deserted nest No. 3 also. By this time I was beginning to get disgusted as I had found three nests, and all of them had been deserted.

I was looking through the woods for the last time before going home, when suddenly a Kentucky Warbler got up almost under my feet and ran rapidly along the ground. Looking down I soon saw the nest and was delighted to find it contained five beautiful eggs which were perfectly fresh. It was evidently the second nest of the pair that built nest No. 2, as the egg in that nest was exactly similar to the five I had now found.

On June 7th, I went to another woods and after looking around for over two hours without success I began to get tired and sat down for a few minutes. Suddenly a Kentucky Warbler got up some distance from me (about fifteen or twenty feet, I should say). I soon found the nest. It was placed in a similar position to the others, and contained five slightly incubated eggs. The bird, while I was packing up the nest and eggs, flew from twig to twig uttering cries of distress. This nest was on a slight hillside.

over.

About ten minutes afterwards in the same woods another Kentucky Warbler got up very near me. I found its nest in a few minutes. It contained five young birds. The female ran rapidly along the ground, trying to induce me to follow it and leave the nest unmolested.

**Ne:** The male was also near by.

This nest was placed, like all the others, at the foot of a small bush. It was on a piece of level ground between two dried-up streams, and was smaller than the other nests, though similar in construction.

**M.** On June 9th, I found another nest of this Warbler. I was walking through the same woods where I found nest No. 4, when a Kentucky Warbler got up close to me. The nest was easily found. It contained four fresh eggs. It was placed like all the others at the foot of a small bush, and was on a hillside. This nest was somewhat different from the others being more slightly put together and having in addition to some dead leaves, some green ones. The lining was the same as the others.

**son,** I did not find any more nests until the 21st of June, when I found two which were both in the same woods where I found my first set of eggs. The young birds had left both these nests, one could easily see by their condition.

**nest** One of the nests, however, contained one rotten egg. They were both placed on the ground between the forks of small bushes, in swampy parts of the woods, and were about an eighth of a mile apart.

**most** On the next day (the 22d), I found a nest (which was just finished) in the woods where I found my second set. I left this until the 29th, when I returned and flushed the bird. The nest then contained three eggs of the Warbler and one of the Cowbird, in which incubation had begun.

**Dela** This nest had evidently been built by the same pair of birds that I took a set of five from on the 7th of June, as the two nests were not more than fifty yards apart. It was placed on the ground between two small bushes in a rather open, level spot in the woods and was about twenty yards from a stream of water.

**abun** Apparently the nests do not differ materially except in size. Sometimes the lining consists also of horse-hair in addition to the black rootlets. The number of eggs in a set is from three to six, though usually four or five. Mr. Ladd has found two sets of three, while Mr. Jackson twice found sets of six. The eggs, like nearly all of those of the Warblers, are sub-

ject to great variation in size, shape, markings, etc., and it would take a large series to show all their variations. Cowbird's eggs are found sometimes in the nests.

I think that a Kentucky Warbler prefers a swampy woods for its nesting place, though they often build on a hillside some distance from a swamp.

The time to look for the eggs is from May 25th to June 10th.

The four sets of eggs may be thus described:

June 6, 1889, Chester County, Penn. Five eggs, fresh; light, creamy white, heavily spotted with hazel and lilac-gray. On three of the eggs the markings are principally confined to the larger ends, where they form indistinct wreaths, but the other two eggs are wreathed around the smaller ends: .75 x .59; .71 x .60; .71 x .58; .71 x .60; .71 x .60.

June 7, 1889. Chester County, Penn. Five eggs, incubation slight; white, speckled and spotted with vinaceous, and a few spots of lilac-gray. The markings are principally confined to the larger ends, where they form indistinct wreaths: .70 x .60; .80 x .61; .77 x .60; .79 x .60; .81 x .60.

June 9, 1889. Chester County, Penn. Four eggs, fresh; white, speckled and spotted with vinaceous-rufous and a few markings of lilac-gray. The markings are much heavier near the larger ends, where they form indistinct wreaths: .76 x .59; .71 x .52; .72 x .59; .67 x .56.

June 20, 1889. Chester County, Penn. Three eggs, incubation begun, (contained also one egg of the Cowbird); light creamy white, speckled and spotted, chiefly at the larger ends, with cinnamon-rufous: .87 x .58; .84 x .58; .82 x .57.

*J. P. Norris, Jr.*  
O. & O. N. IV. July. 1889 p. 104-106

agilis

Academy of Natural Sciences  
OF  
PHILADELPHIA  
LOGAN SQUARE.

Philadelphia, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> 1891

Mr William Brewster

Dear Sir

At a recent meeting of our local Ornithological Club, the question of the migration of birds along different routes in Spring & fall was brought up and the Connecticut warbler was cited as an example.

Considerable discussion followed and I have since been looking up the published records of this species but do not arrive at very satisfactory results, so take the liberty of writing to ask your opinion on the subject, whether the bird does really migrate up the Mississippi Valley & down the Atlantic Coast, or whether the

evidences of such a course are  
occasionally by a lack of observers.  
And if the spring and fall routes of  
migration are different has any  
theory been advanced to account  
for the fact.

The Connecticut Warbler is quite common  
here in fall (Sept 6 - Oct 13) in some  
years, and this seems to be the  
case at various other Atlantic seaboard  
stations, while I can find but 3 authentic  
spring records. The Mississippi Valley  
occurrences are apparently the reverse  
of these, though ~~the~~ the evidence of Mr  
Nelson (Bull Nutt Orn. Club I p. 2) & Mr Kumlein  
(Auk V. 316) seem to upset this idea.  
But was it possible that their birds  
were G. philadelphia, as several alleged  
fall specimens of G. agilis that I have  
examined have proved to be.

Hoping I am not troubling you too  
much I remain

Sincerely yours

Witmer Stone

Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila

Academy of Natural Sciences

OF  
PHILADELPHIA

LOGAN SQUARE.

Philadelphia, April 7<sup>th</sup> 1891

Mr Wm. Brewster

Dear Sir Your kind answer to my inquiry concerning the Connecticut warbler should have been acknowledged before this, but I have been very busy and forgot all about it.

We had a further discussion on this species at a recent meeting of the "Delaware Valley Club" and another spring specimen was brought to light which has never been recorded. The bird in question was shot some years since at Haddonfield N. J. by Mr Saml N. Rhoads & is now in his collection. Mr Rhoads heard the bird in full

Academy of Natural Sciences  
OF  
PHILADELPHIA  
LOGAN SQUARE.

Philadelphia, ..... 189

song, and the next <sup>spring</sup> ~~after~~ heard what he is positive was another Connecticut warbler but failed to secure it.

In a series of fall Connecticut warblers exhibited by Mr Geo. S. Morris at the same meeting was a very strange looking bird somewhat resembling this species but with a different bill. It seemed to me to be a hybrid of some sort but just what its relations are I cannot say. Mr Morris has sent the specimen to Mr Ridgway & will doubtless publish a note on it in the Auk.

I recently found a specimen of Agelaius phoeniceus in the Academy Collection molting from the striped

plumage to the black garb of the old male. The specimen in question is rather abnormal as the old plumage is very light colored and there is a light terminal band on the tail. This <sup>specimen</sup> however brought up the question of whether these birds had a complete moult in the winter, in addition to the casting of the tips of the feathers. It does not seem possible for the birds of the year to assume the black plumage by a mere loss of the tips of the feathers and yet we have no

specimens here which show ~~at~~ a  
regular moult of ~~this kind~~ from  
striped to black plumage except  
the one mentioned which is decidedly  
abnormal.

I would be very much obliged  
if you could tell me how this  
winter moult takes place and  
at what time but do not wish  
to put you to any trouble

Very truly yours

Witmer Stone

Acad. Nat Sci.

Logan Square

Philad<sup>a</sup>

Massachusetts,

*Gerythopsis agilis*

1892.

Oct 19 Concord. The Connecticut Warbler rose from the ground at the foot of a cluster of young birches & flew into a dense young pine whence it peered out at me in the usual wondering way, shifting its position slightly whenever I moved so as to keep itself partially concealed. It was excessively fat and flew heavily with whirring wings. It is a young bird. Several Yellow-rumps were near at hand. The locality is a flat but elevated sandy field grown up to young white & pitch pines and birches.

Mass.

Oporornis agilis

Cambridge

1890.

" This is the second season that I have searched the Fresh Pond  
Sept. 30-swamps for Connecticut Warblers-in vain. I do not believe they can  
have been there in any numbers. On two successive days I met a  
young collector (Brown I believe) there hunting them. He told me  
that he had considerable experience collecting them in these swamp  
but could find none now. Last autumn he was not here. He promised  
to send me word if he found any subsequently but I have not yet  
heard from him."

Walter Faxon in letter

September 30<sup>th</sup> - 1890.

*Connecticut Warbler in Ontario.*

On September 15, 1883, there flew into a store in this city a Connecticut Warbler, which was, as far as I then knew, the first Canadian specimen. In December of the same year, a consultation with Mr. McIwraith disclosed the fact that he had some specimens of the same species, which had never been satisfactorily separated from the Mourning Warbler. These have been in his possession for years. Again in May, 1884, attracted by a new note, after spending some time in a swampy thicket, I succeeded in capturing another of this species near London; and since knowing their note have found them tolerably common, but quite shy here as swamp birds, and quite common at Point Pelee, for a few days in June, as ground feeders in dry places, where, on the above trip, several were procured.—W. E. SAUNDERS, *London, Ont.* *Auk*, 2, July, 1886, p. 308.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,  
by James H. Fleming,  
Part II, Land Birds,  
*Auk*, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 85.

263. *Geothlypis agilis*. CONNECTICUT WARBLER.—Regular migrant, not common, May 23 to 30, and August 26 to September 12. This was considered one of our rarest warblers till about 1896 when Mr. J. Hughes Samuel found them not uncommon in May at Island Park.

MAINE NOTES. — *Oporornis agilis* (Wils.) Baird. CONNECTICUT WARBLER. — Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown, in a paper read before the Portland Society of Natural History April 3, 1882, gives this bird for the first time a place in the Maine fauna. He met with it Aug. 30, 1878, on Cape Elizabeth. I would record a specimen which I took in August, 1879, at Ebeme Lake. This makes the second record for this State.

Harry Merrill, Bangor, Maine

Bull. N. O. C. 7, July, 1882, p. 190.

Connecticut Warbler—A Correction.—In the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' for July, 1882 (Vol. VII, p. 190), I recorded the capture of a Connecticut Warbler at Ebeme Lake, Maine, in August, 1879, which made the second record for the species in the State.

To make certain of its identity I sent the skin to Dr. T. M. Brewer, who wrote me (Oct. 26, 1879) that as well as he could make out the specimen was the Connecticut Warbler, but that he would get some one more *au fait* in plumage than he was to confirm or reverse his opinion.

Following this he returned the skin and wrote (Oct. 30): "I have shown the inclosed to Mr. Allen and have his confirmation of my own impressions. The *agilis* is rather an interesting specimen."

Lately the question of its correct identity was again raised, and to make assurance doubly sure I sent the skin to Mr. William Brewster for examination, giving its history. Mr. Brewster wrote me (March 28, 1886): "The case is of such importance, I have compared it carefully with large series of both *Oporornis agilis* and *G. philadelphia*. There can not be the slightest doubt as to its identity. It is a perfectly typical *Geothlypis philadelphia* in autumnal plumage." From Mr. Brewster's careful examination he is undoubtedly correct, and I would correct the record already made.—HARRY MERRILL, Bangor, Me. **Auk, 3, July, 1886, p. 413.**

Additional Occurrences of the Connecticut Warbler in Maine.—On seeing Mr. Merrill's note in the July number of 'The Auk' (Vol. III, p. 413) last summer, on the status of the Connecticut Warbler in Maine, I was reminded of a bird which I had taken in September, 1885, at Saco, which I had supposed to be of this species. At the time of reading the note I was away from Cambridge, and, being unwilling to send any communication regarding my bird until I had examined it again, was obliged to wait until October. Before that time, however, I had the pleasure of taking two more specimens at Saco. The first was taken September 8, in a maple swamp, not more than twenty yards from where the specimen of the previous year was secured. The other was shot September 15, in a dry blueberry heath, on a pine tree, where it seemed to be feeding. To make certain in regard to their identity I have just shown the three skins to Mr. Brewster, who pronounces them undoubtedly *Oporornis agilis*. —JOSEPH L. GOODALE, Cambridge, Mass.

**Auk, 4, Jan., 1887, p. 77-78.**

**Connecticut Warbler in Maine.**—September 16, 1906, in the woods of Cape Elizabeth, I saw a warbler which I could not fully identify at the time, but which answered the description of a Connecticut Warbler, the white eye-ring being particularly prominent. The following day, September 17, 1906, a cat brought to a cottage, about 200 yards from the spot where I saw the above mentioned bird, a young male Connecticut Warbler. The specimen was taken to Mr. Arthur H. Norton, curator of the Portland Society of Natural History, and was verified by him. The skin is now in the collection of the Society. This, I believe, is the seventh record of this warbler in southwestern Maine. The previous six records are as follows: Brown, Cape Elizabeth, Aug. 30, 1878, Abstract Proc. Portland Soc. Nat. Hist., 1882; Goodale, Saco, Sept. 1885, Sept. 8, 1886, and Sept. 15, 1886, Goodale in Auk, Vol. IV, p. 77; Norton, Westbrook, Sept. 20, 1896, Bull. Univ. of Maine, No. III, p. 119; Norton, Westbrook, Sept. 5, 1901, Journal Maine Ornith. Soc., Vol. VI, p. 47.—  
W. H. BROWNSON, *Portland, Me.*

*Auk*, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 105.

**Another Connecticut Warbler from Maine.**—The publication by Mr. W. H. Brownson in the last number of 'The Auk' (p. 105) of seven records of the Connecticut Warbler from Maine leads me to record another specimen of this bird which I shot in Eliot, York Co., Maine, on September 12, 1894. This specimen, which was a bird of the year, is now in my collection.—ARTHUR H. HOWELL, *Washington, D. C.*

*Auk*, 24, Apr., 1907, p. 222.

*Oporonis agilis* and ~~*Dendroica palmarum palmarum*~~ at Shelburne, near Gorham, New Hampshire.—On September 14, 1884, while collecting near the 'Dryad Camp' on the side of Mt. Baldcap (altitude approximately 800 feet), I secured a female Connecticut Warbler. When seen it was hopping about in a tangle of hobble bushes and low alders, which covered a small piece of swampy ground in high open woods. No others were seen although I looked carefully for them, and went to the same place several times hoping to find more. This adds the Connecticut Warbler to the birds of New Hampshire.

Arthur P. Chadbourne,  
Cambridge, Mass.

*Auk*, 2, Jan., 1885, p. 104.

Summer Birds of Presidential Range,  
White Mts. A. P. Chadbourne

[36. *Geothlypis agilis*, or *G. philadelphia*. On July 7, 1886, I saw a bird in a damp thicket, by the side of the carriage road, at an elevation of 2640 feet, that was undoubtedly either a Connecticut or a Mourning Warbler. In its slow, listless motions and peculiar way of flirting its tail, it reminded me most of the former as seen in Massachusetts in autumn, but the latter would seem to be far more likely to occur.]

*Auk*, 4, April 1887, p. 108

The Connecticut Warbler in Vermont.—On September 20, 1888, I took a male Connecticut Warbler (*Geothlypis agilis*) in the Green Mountains, two miles north of Pittsford, Vermont. This is, I believe, the first record of the species in Vermont.—FRANK H. HITCHCOCK, *Somerville, Massachusetts*.

**Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 193.**

Oporornis agilis

Cambridge, Mass.  
September 1880

Mr. A. M. Selman tells me that during the present month he had found these Warblers in great numbers in the Maple Swamps near Fish Pond. He had taken a dozen specimens and had seen a great many more. Only one adult was taken. He found them generally on the ground but sometimes in the trees. About half of these taken were fat; the other being in good order for skinning. His first specimens were taken Sept. his last Sept. It is worthy of note that

Oporornis agilis.

Occurrence in 1882.

Cambridge, Mass.  
September, 1882

My first date for this autumn is Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> when Selman saw seven, including an adult ♂, in the "maple swamp". Doubtless they came earlier but we our looked for them. On Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> I visited the swamps with Selman and saw nine, five in the "maple swamp", four in the eastern shore of the "pine swamp". Those killed were not as fat as usual. The summer, up to Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, was very dry and there is now no water in the swamps.

Sept. 27. The past week has been very stormy and heavy rains have flooded the swamps.

Brief Notes.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER. Is it a settled fact that *Oporornis agilis* is as rare as it is said to be by many ornithologists of Massachusetts? Last spring I collected two and on the 17th (Saturday last) got two, the 19th one, and yesterday one. I found them all near one locality, and amongst a mixture of scrub oak and birches, in bottom land nearly surrounded by marsh. Those collected last spring were in ground of the same character. W. W. Castle, Ashland, Mass., May 23. O. & O. IX, Jun. 1884. p. 75

Since 1872 when these warblers were first found  
in numbers in this locality there had been no  
thought of the present autumn. Nor it is true  
that there had been no heavy rain since  
last spring. The birds were nearly all dead  
and the country parched and suffering  
for rain. Nor have the birds been overlooked in  
the intervening years. On the contrary they  
have been searched for each successive  
autumn but only a few stragglers found.

As a result their Warblers have all  
left the place. Spelman has one  
from about the 21<sup>st</sup> but to-day we  
could find none. We did there  
and here two, however, in E.  
Boston, among the bushes by a  
brook. I never heard of any there  
before.

#### Brief Notes.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER. Is it a settled fact that *Oporornis agilis* is as rare as it is said to be by many ornithologists of Massachusetts? Last spring I collected two and on the 17th (Saturday last) got two, the 19th one, and yesterday one. I found them all near one locality, and amongst a mixture of scrub oak and birches, in bottom land nearly surrounded by marsh. Those collected last spring were in ground of the same character. W. W. Castle, Ashland, Mass., May 23. O. & O. IX, Jun. 1884. p. 75

Mass. (Worcester Co.)

*Oporornis agilis*

Occurrence in Spring - abundance in autumn.

1886 Mr. Wm S. Perry tells me that this species is regularly abundant in autumn, between Sept. 25 and Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, throughout Worcester Co. While hunting Woodcock in alders & swamps he often sees fifty *O. agilis* in a day. He has never detected them in Spring but for several years past a friend of his has taken three or four each Spring in ticks in Ashland (Middlesex Co.?)

Mass. (Cambridge)

*Oporornis agilis*

1888

Sept. 17. A particularly fine ad. ♂ shot as above in coll. W. W. Brown of Cambridge. (Shot "Fred P. Swamps".)

Some additions to the list of Birds of  
Bristol County, Mass.  
C. L. Phillips, Dighton, Mass.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*). I  
took this specimen September 9, 1885, and one  
more September 18, 1886.

88. *Oporornis agilis*. - Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> E. Mass. 1885.

1450. Occurrence of the Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) in  
Massachusetts in Spring. By C. J. Maynard. *Ibid.*, pp. 43, 44.  
Bos. Jour. Zool. Soc. II

Royalston, Mass.

*Oporornis agilis*

1885.

Sept. 28

Miss M. E. Paine of Royalston has sent me the skin of an *O. agilis* taken at above place and date. The bird is an adult ♂ and one of the finest plumaged specimens I ever saw.

Royalston, Mass.

*Oporornis agilis*

1885.

Under date of Oct. 1, 1885, Miss M. E. Paine sends me an adult ♂ *O. agilis* "caught by my cat."

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1887

Oct. 5 - shot at Grantville

*Oporornis agilis*

Carton, Mass  
1878 *Oporornis agilis*

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

1883

*Oporornis agilis*

Cambridge  
Mass.

September

Mr. Chas. B. Gantt's field  
catalogue contains the following  
records of specimens taken by  
him in "swampy woods near  
the Antifield during the above  
named month.

415, ♂?	September 15 (the first seen)
422, ♀	" 20
428 ♀	" 28

*Brookline Massachusetts.*

5. *Oporornis agilis*. CONNECTICUT WARBLER.—Late in the afternoon of September 27, 1907, a mild, cloudy day, one of these birds flew against a window of the hotel and was killed. It was preserved and is in my possession.—RICHARD MERRILL MARBLE, *Brookline, Mass.*

Auk 26, Oct-1908, p. 437.

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**The Connecticut Warbler.***(Oporornis agillis).*

BY C. M. JONES, EASTFORD, CONN.

I made my first acquaintance with this bird in the autumn of 1886. It was on the 30th day of September that I was making my way through a large boggy meadow where the grass had not been cut and stood fully two feet high, hoping every moment to start up something that might be an addition to my collection. I was just approaching the edge where the ground began to rise slightly and a different kind of grass grew, when up started a bird from the ground and flew a few rods into a growth of bushes and small trees. I saw her light in one of the trees, where she ran along on the nearly horizontal branch very much as I have seen the Golden-crowned Thrush do. I supposed it was that species and thought I would save the specimen for the autumnal plumage, so advancing a few paces within reach I fired. But on picking up the bird I saw that it was quite another species, and took it to be a Mourning Warbler until I noticed the white ring around the eye.

Again on the morning of October 5th, I went out for a short ramble, and while walking along by the edge of a swampy thicket I saw a bird rise from the ground and dart into the bushes. I was quite near and could see as she paused for a moment, that it was the same species as that which I had captured a few days before. I was too near to fire, and while backing off she disappeared and no amount of searching enabled me to discover her again. Going on further to a little swamp of about a couple of acres where mosses and skunk cabbage and various kinds of reeds grew I waded through it near one side and back again near the other without starting anything till I stepped out onto dry ground, a hay field, when I saw another bird rise from the grass and hurry into a clump of low bushes. Such movements were becoming familiar. I waited a long time, and could see the bushes move as the bird kept hopping about among them, but not a glimpse of the bird herself, though I felt sure that she kept an eye on me all the time. At length all motion ceased and I finally beat the bushes through, but she had evidently retreated to a safer place. Somewhat disappointed I started for home, but concluded to take in, on my way, the place where I had seen the other bird. As I came near she started up again and was in the bushes in a twinkling. As she paused for a moment on a branch, though very near, I dropped my gun quite below the mark

and fired. On taking her in my hand I found that I held a somewhat mangled Connecticut Warbler.

These birds were both extremely fat, so that it was difficult to skin them, and quite impossible to make satisfactory specimens of them. The first bird proved to be a female, the other was so injured by shot that I could not determine the sex. So short a study does not give one a very full knowledge of their habits, but so much I learned, that in autumn they seek for food on the ground, in open land, but near some covert into which they hasten when alarmed, that they are very restless at such times, yet conceal themselves carefully and still manifest considerable curiosity toward an intruder and are silent. In the spring they may appear very differently.

O. & O. XI, Mar. 1886, p. 43-44.

**Last Dates of Migratory Birds Observed in the Fall of 1885, at Montreal and Vicinity, Canada.**

BY ERNEST D. WINTLE, MONTREAL.

- Aug. 1, Indigo Bird.  
 " 8, Chipping Sparrow.  
 " 9, Tyrant Flycatcher, Summer Warbler.  
 " 15, Catbird, Red-bellied Nuthatch, Barn Swallow, White-bellied Swallow.  
 " 16, Purple Martin.  
 " 17, Baltimore Oriole.  
 " 22, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-White Creeper, and Sharp-shinned Hawk.  
 " 28, Nighthawk.  
 " 29, Redstart, and Olive-sided Flycatcher.  
 Sept. 5, Chimney Swift, Black-billed Cuckoo.  
 " 12, Golden-crowned Thrush, and Yellow-bellied Woodpecker.  
 " 15, Wild Pigeon.  
 " 17, Cedar Bird, Golden-winged Woodpecker, Purple Grackle, and Broad-winged Buzzard.  
 " 19, Wood Pewee, Pine-creeping Warbler.  
 " 26, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and White-throated Sparrow.  
 Oct. 10, Wilson's Thrush, Pigeon Hawk, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler.  
 " 11, Goldfinch, and Winter Wren.  
 " 18, Song Sparrow, Downy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee, Purple Finch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Blue Jay, White-bellied Nuthatch, Great Horned Owl, Pine Linnet, and Wilson's Snipe.  
 " 25, Wilson's Snowbird.  
 " 31, Robin, and Brown Creeper.  
 Nov. 11, Hairy Woodpecker.

CAPTURE OF THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*) IN SPRING AT NEW HAVEN, CONN. — On May 30, 1879, I secured a female of this species, while collecting in a small tract of low second growth, not far from the city. They are very rarely taken in spring in this State, and are rare at any time. — GEORGE WOOLSEY, *New Haven, Conn.*

Bull. N. O. C. 5, April, 1880, p. 117.

THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*) — A CORRECTION. — In a small collection of birds kindly sent to me for examination, by Mr. George Woolsey, is the specimen recorded as *Oporornis agilis* in Vol. V, p. 117, of this Bulletin. The specimen proves to be a female *Geothlypis philadelphia*. The bird was taken May 12, 1880, and the correction of the error becomes the more important from this fact, since it leaves *Oporornis agilis* without a spring record for southern New England. — J. A. ALLEN, *Cambridge, Mass.* Bull. N. O. C. 3. A. 24, 1881, p. 114.

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### The Connecticut Warbler in Conn.

BY H. W. FLINT, NEW HAVEN, CONN.

The past season (fall 1887) has been exceptionally productive, having furnished me with a species of Warbler "new" to my collection, viz: *Oporornis agilis*. I have secured two specimens this fall and a friend of mine shot a fine male while we were collecting on the afternoon of Sept. 26. Also had the pleasure of taking on Sept. 24th an adult male Tennessee Warbler. Have found this species but once before (May 22nd, 1878) and my experience of about fifteen years active collecting would justify the remark, "very rare" as applied to this bird.

With the exception of the Cape May, I have now collected all the Warblers that can be said to occur regularly in Connecticut, including two fine specimens of *Hel. Leucobronchialis* taken several years ago, and hope to add the missing one ere long.

O. & O. XII. Oct. 1887 p. 76

OCCURRENCE OF SEVERAL RARE BIRDS NEAR SING SING, N. Y. —  
The capture of the following birds is of some interest, as they are comparatively rare in this locality; also the time of year in which some of them were taken is unusual.

1. *Oporornis agilis*. CONNECTICUT WARBLER. — I shot a male September 19, 1878, in a clump of bushes, while I was looking for a *Myiodytes mitratus*, which I had seen a few minutes previous, and had failed to shoot.

A. K. Fisher, Sing Sing, N. Y.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan, 1879, p 61.

*Geothlypis agilis*.

Connecticut Warbler and Philadelphia  
Vireo at Shelter Island, N. Y.

On Sept. 12, 1901, I take a  
specimen of the Connecticut Warbler  
(*Geothlypis agilis*) and on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
another, &c.

W. W. Worthington.

Shelter Island Heights  
N. Y.

Auk, X, Jan. 1, 2, p. 89

Bird Notes from Long Island, N. Y.

*Geothlypis agilis*. The Connecticut Warbler was unusually abundant during the latter part of September, 1900, in the vicinity of Jamaica South. Ten specimens were taken by the writer and many were seen. — GEO. K. CHERRIE, *Museum of the Brooklyn Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.*

*Auk*, XIX, April., 1902, p. 210.

*Auk*, XIX, April., 1902, p. 210.

Notes on the birds of Madison County, New York,  
with especial reference to Embury's recent list.

28. *Geothlypis agilis*. CONNECTICUT WARBLER. — Not listed. A rare fall migrant at Peterboro, according to Mr. Miller.

By William R. Maxon. *Auk*, XX, July, 1903, p. 266.

Notes from Western New York.  
Maurice C. Blake, Hanover, N.H.

Auk, 24, Apr., 1907, p. 225.

*Geothlypis agilis*.—Mr. Antes had the good fortune to record a spring migrant of this species at Canandaigua in the early morning of May 29, 1906. He followed up an unfamiliar warbler song to a dense but small thicket. After patient waiting he obtained several very near and convincing views of a male Connecticut Warbler as it sang. Careful searches in the afternoon of the same day and the next morning failed to reveal this warbler in the near vicinity. Early in the morning of May 31, Mr. Antes and I came upon a Connecticut Warbler in an old, overgrown garden about two-thirds of a mile west of the spot where Mr. Antes had observed his bird two days before. Presumably the two observations were of the same bird. While Mr. Antes returned for his gun, I had a half hour in which to study the bird carefully. Its loud song had first made us aware of its presence, and it proved a persistent singer. From a small apple tree in the rear of the garden it flew to a clump of willows standing by itself in an open pasture. I was able to come up to the clump, and, looking within, see the warbler but a few yards from me. The white eye ring was distinct and prominent, and the breast uniform bluish gray. When a pair of Song Sparrows drove it from the clump, it flew to a bushy fence border, and here I had even clearer views of it. Several times I saw it in the act of singing. When Mr. Antes returned it was again back in the thick clump. As it worked towards the edge, he shot. We spent three-quarters of an hour in fruitless search among the close-growing willows, and then gave it up. Though the record is unfortunately not complete, it is none the less positive.

**The Connecticut Warbler in Central Park, New York City.**—I was fortunate enough to find an individual of the Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) in Central Park on May 16. The bird was a male in curious plumage, as there was not the usual amount of slate-gray on the breast. At first sight I thought it was a Nashville Warbler, but soon noticed it walking on the ground, with its tail up in the air, and then obtained a view of its breast. It was absurdly tame, and was within eight feet of me, when first observed. During the day I showed it to about ten bird students. Mr. W. deW. Miller, of the American Museum of Natural History, came over in the afternoon, and four of us leaned in a row on a fence, while the bird walked unconcernedly around catching flies, not more than 15 feet from us. We were able to make out every detail, including the elongated tail-coverts. Part of the time the bird was so close that I was unable to focus on it with my binoculars. The Warbler remained in the Park in the rhododendron bushes for six days, walking about frequently in the open. This species is apparently a very rare spring migrant along the Atlantic Coast.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *New York City.*

*Auk*. xxix. July 1912. p. 396.

Nest and Habits of the Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*).—

A few miles south of Carberry, Manitoba, is a large spruce bush, and in the middle of it is a wide tamarack swamp. This latter is a gray mossy bog, luxuriant only with pitcher plants and *Drosera*. At regular distances, as though planted by the hand of man, grow the slim straight tamaracks, grizzled with moss, but not dense, nor at all crowded; their light leafage casts no shade. They always look as though they were just about to end, though the swamp really continues for miles—the same dank, gray waste.

At times the Great-crested Flycatcher was heard uttering his whistling croak. Besides this the only noticeable sound was the clear song of a Warbler. It may be suggested by the syllables, *beechee-beechee-beechee-beechee-beechee-beechee*. It is like the song of the Golden-crowned Thrush, but differs in being in the same pitch throughout, instead of beginning in a whisper and increasing the emphasis and strength with each pair of notes to the last. Guided by the sound, I found the bird high in the tamaracks. It was not shy like the Wood Warblers, so it was easily secured. It proved to be a male Connecticut Warbler.

As I went on, a small bird suddenly sprang from one of the grave-like moss-mounds. It seemed distressed, and ran along with its wings held up, like a Plover just alighting. On seeing that I would not be decoyed away, it ran around me in the same attitude. Recognizing that it was the Connecticut Warbler, I took it, and then sought out the nest in the moss. It was entirely composed of dry grass, and sunken level with the surface. The eggs, four in number, measured  $.75 \times .56$  in. Before being blown they were of a delicate creamy white, with a few spots of lilac-purple, brown, and black, inclined to form a ring at the large end.

This nest was sent, with the parent birds, to the Smithsonian Institution; the identification was confirmed, and the nest deposited in the Museum. — ERNEST E. T. SETON, *Carberry, Manitoba*.

*Auk*, I, April, 1884. p. 192-193.

## Nesting of the Connecticut Warbler.

This handsome and active species (*Oporornis agilis*), though not abundant anywhere, is yet pretty widely distributed over the Province of Ontario during the summer months. At least I have noticed it in the different sections where I have resided, especially where it finds the particular places that it loves to make its summer home and nesting site.

This is generally on the margins of damp, woody lands, or second growth timbered tracts, where there is low, thick underwood, raspberry vines, tangled brush, and fallen trees. It also appears to have a partiality for ravines, sides of small hills, and the margins of creeks, where there is deep concealment. Amidst the thick foliage of such places one kind of the long notes of the male bird may often be heard, while the little performer itself is invisible. At other times he will rise to a considerable elevation, and after a pleasing musical serenade, in which he appears to take much pleasure and pride, he descends rapidly into the leafy underwood near which it is probable his partner has her nesting place.

Another peculiar haunt of this species is partly cleared fields between woods, and where roads are made through patches of forest, but it does not often appear in the open field or near human habitations, nor is it found deep in the woods either of hard or soft wood lands, though as the forest is fast disappearing, it will doubtless also change its abiding places.

In the early settlement of Canada, the little clearing in the backwoods surrounding the pioneer's shanty, where tall weeds, sprouts and vines grew luxuriantly around the stumps, and along the fences, this warbler found many a congenial home and nesting place near the cabin of the settler, or wigwam of the Indian, but with the better cultivation of the farm, and the more extensive destruction of

the original forest, all has become changed, and with these changes the life-histories of many of our wild birds, including the species under review. And in this connection I would remark that it and the Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*) frequent much the same localities, although in their nesting they differ much.

In its general habits the Connecticut Warbler is shy and retired, and but few of the species are ever seen in company, and but seldom do they leave the shelter of the woods for the deep foliage of their haunts, although occasionally the farmer, who has an eye and ear to appreciate the sights and sounds of nature, may, at any time of the day, see or hear an individual on the margin of the woods, or along the vine-clad fences, near where it makes its summer home. Should the nesting place be invaded the female gives vent to her displeasure in a series of sharply uttered notes, which usually brings her mate upon the scene to offer his sympathy and assistance, and the scolding is kept up until the intruder leaves the vicinity. Sometimes, however, the male seems too distant, or otherwise engaged, to pay any attention to the alarm notes of the female, and she is left alone to battle as best she can with the cause of her discomfort. When, however, the young are in the nest, or are unable to seek their own safety by flight, should one of them utter a note of distress, the male as well as the mother are soon upon the scene, mingling his notes with hers, and equally exercising his arts to drive or draw away the disturber, and no creature can show more affection to its young, or solicitude for their safety than this species of the Warblers.

The scolding note of this bird more resembles the word "vitch" than the "chip"-like note of the other species of warblers, and by this means it may more readily be distinguished, though its person may be out of view amid the deep foliage; while the song

notes of the male, uttered in a clear and pleasing tone as he perches on some elevated branch, seems to resemble the words "rush, rush, rush-o-worry," and by this he is easily distinguished from the Mourning Warbler, although at even a short distance their plumage much resembles each other. There is also this distinction between these warblers, that while the male Connecticut often rises high to warble his ditty, the Mourning confines the display of his musical talents to positions nearer the ground; and the peculiar long note that the former emits, as he sometimes rises on fluttering wings, bears some resemblance to the charming song of the Winter Wren.

Since the early years of our pioneer life in the backwoods of Peel, I have been more or less familiar with the habits of this interesting species, for it was almost the only member of its family that seemed to make its summer home among the fallen and tangled brushwood and partially cleared patches along the banks of the creek that intersected the homestead, where I passed my boyhood days, and for many years it was known to me as the Linnet, because some of the older members of our family stated that it resembled the bird known by that name in our native land, and I must more often have seen its nest and eggs than I now can call to remembrance.

The first nest of this species that I now recollect to have seen was on the margin of a wood, separated from the clearing by a brush fence into which the bird darted, when an elder brother and I flushed her from her nest. This was placed in a small cavity in the side of a little bank, much like where a Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) would choose for her nesting place, and was composed of similar materials to those which that species uses. This contained six eggs. A year or two after this a friend of ours who then owned the neighboring farm, and who knew that I was interested in birds, informed me that when clearing some new land he had found the nest of a very strange bird. Anxious to see it, I went with him to the bush, and on approaching the place, to my disappointment, out flew the warbler. This nest contained but three eggs, and was placed in a space among the roots of a clump of swamp maples that were growing by the side of an old moss-covered log.

Years passed away, and coming to this section of the country, and devoting more time and attention to the life habits of our wild birds, I noticed that this species was a com-

mon summer resident on the margins of most of the low wooded lands in this vicinity, and one day in the early part of June, about nine years ago, when rambling in a piece of low woods, I found the first nest of this species that I had seen for many years. This was sunk in the earth, near a turned-up root, but without any particular shelter. It was composed mostly of fine, dry grass, and contained six eggs which I took, but ignorant of their value I gave them to other parties.

Another nest of this species that I found in the same wood was taken on the eleventh of June, 1886. I had, in company with one of my boys, flushed the bird, and her notes and manner told me that her nest was near, but at the time I failed to find it. Returning that way some hours afterwards, I cautiously approached the place where I thought the nest was concealed, and in passing the side of a low cedar root, I again flushed the warbler. A momentary search revealed the nest in a crevice of the root. This was composed of dry leaves, stalk of weeds, fine grass, and some fine hair. Owing to its position, it was more bulky, but rather loosely composed, than the other nests of this species that I had observed, and seemed to indicate that when this warbler made her nest anywhere else than in a hole in the ground, she does not make so neat a job of it.

This nest contained five eggs about half incubated. One was broken in preparing them, but the other four are in my collection, and in every particular they are almost identical with those of the Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*). They have the same clear whiteness of hue as those of the nuthatches and chickadees, but the reddish-brown dotting is more confined to a circle near the large end, although there are more or less of these spots scattered over the surface. Compared with those of the more familiar Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), they are more globular, but not so oblong as those of the Canadian Warbler (*Myiobites canadensis*).

On May 21, 1888, I heard for the first time the song notes of this bird, and soon after saw the little musician perched towards the top of a swamp elm, about fifty feet from the ground, repeating with great animation his "rush, rush-a-worry." Next morning I was surprised but pleased to hear the notes of this species in our garden, and upon a nearer approach found it engaged in a tussle among some bushes with a Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireosylva olivacea*). From this contest it appeared to come off second best, but rapidly repeated its song notes as it took a hasty departure. On May 24th, being out on a ramble I noticed the songs of these birds in various places, on the borders of low wood lands, and during the rest of the season they appeared to be tolerably common, but I failed to find any nests.

Philadelphia

Trochilops philadelphia  
Fishes notes on arrival  
in No. Adams

Waverley, 11 June, '89

Dear Mr. Brewster:

I believe you said you would like my note on the time of arrival of Trochilops philadelphia on its breeding-ground in the Graylock region. I went to No. Adams on the 10<sup>th</sup> May & am quite sure that the bird had not yet arrived, as I visited their haunts at once. On the 14<sup>th</sup> I saw one bird, a male, singing in a spot where they breed. On the 15<sup>th</sup> saw the same (?) bird and another in another place. 16<sup>th</sup>, ditto. 17<sup>th</sup>, two other places. By the 18<sup>th</sup> they seemed to be established in considerable numbers. On 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1888, my brother saw a male, singing, in Brookline.

As we are all in a railing mood just now, it may interest you to know that my brother found a dead Carolina Rail on the N. Y. & N. E. R. R. near Mattapan Station (Dorchester) on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1887. It had probably struck the telegraph wires. I think this must be an early date for this species.

Yesterday afternoon, after my trunk was all packed and state-room engaged on the Bangor steamer, I rec'd a telegram from the brother who was to accompany me to Hualalinde that the doctor forbade his going. He has not been very well this spring, and an examination revealed enlargement and irregular action of the heart, wh. in the physician's opinion, renders mountain climbing and the exposure

of camp life out of the question. I suppose it is a trial which I cannot undertake alone. If it be not too late I hope you will remember me in connection with the Brewster + Torrey Weyland expedition

Yours sincerely  
Walter Faxon

Massachusetts,

*Geothlypis philadelphia.*

1892.

Oct. 4

Concord. Among some dense young spruces at the base of Ball's Hill I flushed a bird which at first I took for a Connecticut Warbler but on following + "screeping" a little I brought it out into plain sight and identified it to my perfect satisfaction as a Mourning Warbler a young bird in autumnal plumage. It was nervous and timid but so intensely curious that I kept it in sight by screeping for several minutes.

BLAKE BROTHERS & COMPANY,

BOSTON.

P.O. Box 2148.

June 26. 1896

Dear Mr Brewster,

I'm looking over my notes I find I have omitted to inform you in regard to a Mourning Warbler ♂ which I shot in Dorchester on May 27/96.

It occurs to me the note may be of sufficient interest to you in making up your local list, as the bird is certainly rare about Boston.

Yours truly

Foster H. Bennett.

Geothlypis philadelphia.

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

1894. We were somewhat surprised to find a Mourning Warbler

June 27. singing in an opening by the roadside where we have passed a number of times during our stay and within thirty yards of where I spent the entire forenoon of the 25th. It is probable that he is a roving bird which had come to the place since our last visit.

June 29. The clearing and the partially cleared sides of the road (W.Faxon and I took a drive this morning) supplied an ideal nesting ground for Mourning Warblers and I have never seen these birds more plentiful, even on Mt.Graylock, while their numbers exceeded anything that I have ever hitherto observed in northern New England. There were indeed so many that it was difficult to count them but as nearly as we could make out we heard, in all, eleven different males. We spent an hour or more searching for their nests but without success.

Birds of Upper St. John.  
Batchelder,

26. *Geothlypis philadelphia* (Wils.) Bd. MOURNING WARBLER.— Common in suitable places. It was almost sure to be found in "burnt lots," where the fallen trunks lay, half hidden by a luxuriant growth of tall weeds, or thickly overrun with vines. Under the shelter thus afforded they undoubtedly nested, safely screened from the most searching eyes.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, April, 1882, p. 110

Summer Bds. Restigouche Valley, N. B.  
July, '88. J. Brittain and P. Cox, Jr.

*Geothlypis philadelphia*. MOURNING WARBLER.—Not uncommon in the upper part of the valley, but unobserved on the lower river.

Auk, VI. April, 1889, p. 118

Dwight. Summer Birds of  
Prince Edward Island.

*Geothlypis philadelphia*. MOURNING WARBLER.—Apparently rare, though a few were found at Souris in the bushy edges of dry fields adjoining the woods.

Auk X, Jan, 1893, p. 13

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.  
A. H. Alberger,

679. Mourning Warbler. Common. Breeds.  
Nest with full-fledged young July 8th.

O. & O., XV, June, 1890, p. 88

Notes from the Magdalen Islands

*Geothlypis philadelphia*

H. K. Job, Kent, Conn.

Auk, XVIII, April, 1901, p. 200.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,  
by James H. Fleming,  
Part II, Land Birds,  
Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 35.

264. *Geothlypis philadelphia*. MOURNING WARBLER.—Regular migrant, not uncommon, May 11 to 30, and August 15 to 26; rare summer resident; breeds. Mr. C. W. Nash took a young bird from the nest, July 1, 1893; Mr. J. Hughes Samuel saw adults with young, July 30, 1895. This is another species that was rare up to a few years ago.

10 10 0  
Profile House, N. H. Aug. 1-12-1867.

*Geothlypis philadelphia*. — Shot on Aug. 3. It was leading a brood of young barely able to fly.

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N. H. June 11-21 '86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87, W. Faxon

70. *Geothlypis philadelphia*. MOURNING WARBLER. — Two, one near the Profile House, the other near the village.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.153

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

1894

June 15 1/2

1895.

May 26 1/2  
June 22 1/2

Notes from Taftsville, Vt. by  
L. O. Tracy.

Mourning

Warbler, (*Geothlypis philadelphia*), Sept. 20th.

noted by me this past season for the  
first time at this place.

O. & O. X, Jan. 1885, p. 10.

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt

68. *Geothlypis philadelphia*. MOURNING WARBLER. — Quite common in the brushy clearings and thickets around the base of the mountain. I shot one in the thick woods a short distance up the slope, but nearly all that I noted were along the road leading through Smugglers' Notch.

They are extremely shy, and only two or three times was I able to obtain even a glimpse of them, although by approaching stealthily, I could get fairly close. The song is characteristic, though it bears a strong resemblance to that of the Kentucky Warbler.

by Arthur H. Howell,

Auk, VIII, Oct., 1901, p. 344.

Geothlypis philadelphia.

Three shot in Belmont.

Belmont, Mass.  
May 21 - 1882.

Clark, one of Maynard's collectors, took three adult ♂ Mourning Warblers somewhere in Belmont. They are, however, the only ones that appear to have been shot during the remarkable migration of this season.

Geothlypis philadelphia

Song & notes.

Adams, Mass.  
June 28, 1883

The song is tree, tree, tree, two-two two, or tree tree two-wo-wo. Sometimes simply two-wo-wo. The terminal portion is exactly like the song of the House Wren. The alarm note is exactly like that of Opornis agilis.

I saw at least thirty of these Warblers on Graylock Mt. to-day.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

Geothlypis philadelphia

1884.

Cambridge, Mass.

May 29. An adult ♂ shot by Baird in the "Maple Swamp". He saw it first on the 27<sup>th</sup> when he had no gun. On the 29<sup>th</sup> he visited the swamp again and found it within two or three yards of the same place. It was among thick bushes & rose from the ground on each occasion. It was silent and tame.

1884

Geothlypis philadelphia Cambridge Mass.

June 4. Admet ♂ (Contt. no 739)  
Shot in the maple swamp  
by Baird. He had seen it  
in the same place on June 2nd

Geothlypis philadelphia

Cambridge Mass.  
May 29, 1878.

[Information given by Mr.  
Batchelder to me  
May 14, 1901. W. Brewster]

Mr. C. F. Batchelder took  
one in an apple tree  
in his garden, on  
Kirkland St. The skin is  
in his collection.

Mass. (Cambridge)

Geothlypis philadelphia

188-

May - One shot by C. F. Batchelder in his  
garden at #17 Kirkland St.

May - One shot in the maple swamp by  
C. R. Baird.

(Verify these notes & get exact dates from  
persons named)

*Geothlypis Philadelphia*

1890 Mass.

June 2 Cambridge. - When I awoke this morning at a little after daybreak the very first bird I heard was a Mourning Warbler singing in the linden directly in front of my window. He sang loudly and rapidly one song following another in quick succession at frequent intervals for about half an hour. I expected to find him in the garden shrubbery later but failed to do so. In my linden

" 6 Waverly. Faxon found a ♂ in full song this morning in the shade trees close to the house on the corner of Linn and North sts. just beyond the oaks. The bird kept in the tops of these trees for awhile then flew to an apple orchard beyond. He sang loudly & frequently. He was a high plumage bird. Migrant singing in trees.

1892 A

May 27 Arlington. - A male shot by Mr. Hadley sold me by W. W. Brown  
1893

June 3 " A fine male [shot by Mr. Hadley?] " " " "  
1901

Sept 25<sup>th</sup> Cambridge. At about noon of the 26<sup>th</sup> I found a Mourning Warbler in our garden. Gilbert & I followed it about for sometime getting many good sights at it. It was in nearly the same place at 8 a.m. the next morning. It was seen many times through the forenoon by both Walter & me. Just before noon I shot it with a collecting pistol. It was a young ♂ in full fall plumage showing a chain of dusky spots across the breast. It was in good condition with some fat about the abdomen & crop.

During its stay in the garden this bird spent most of its time in a dense Japanese Clematis which after climbing up a post overruns the top of a beech pear tree. Once or twice I saw it on the ground under the tree but it was usually hopping about in the vine a few feet above the ground. Sometimes its branches extended upward into the branches of the tree. When driven away from the vine it would fly to other parts of the garden usually seeking refuge in some thicket of bushes. Once I followed it closely



60. *Geothlypis philadelphia*. MOURNING WARBLER. — Common. Noted at altitudes from 1000 to 3500 feet, one pair at least being established in the edge of the clearing on the summit of Graylock. Especially abundant where the forest has been cut on the south side of the 'Bellows-Pipe' in Adams. Wherever the land has been recently cleared, but not appropriated for pasturage or tillage, the Mourning Warbler is found, the most characteristic tenant of the dense 'sprout growth' that forms the vanguard of the succeeding forest. By widening the domain of this lovely bird the wood-cutter atones, in a measure, for the destruction he causes. The voice of the Mourning Warbler is full. The song that I most often heard resembles the syllables *thür-rec, thür-rec, thür-rec* (sometimes the repetition was four times instead of three). A refrain consisting of three notes, with the accent upon the last, or of two notes with a strong accent on the first, the voice falling on the second, was sometimes appended. At other times the form of the song was quite different, consisting of but five notes, the penultimate note strongly accented, the last pitched on a lower key. The last two notes together are equal in time to one of the first three. Something in the mode of delivery of the latter song suggests the song of the Water-Thrush, as Mr. Maynard\* has observed. As far as I could determine, the same bird always followed one score. The Mourning Warbler, like the Golden-crowned Thrush, or its nearer relative, the Maryland Yellow-throat, is much given to an ecstatic aerial song that defies description. On the first of July I discovered a nest of this bird. It contained four young birds. On the seventh the young had flown and the nest was secured. It was placed about ten inches from the ground in a clump of young beech saplings. The body of the nest is composed of strips of bark and dry leaves, with a lining of fine black roots and horse hair. Many dead leaves are fastened to the outside. But slightly attached to the saplings the nest rests upon a loose platform of dry spruce twigs. The inside diameter is about two inches. Of large size and slovenly construction the nest is not a very creditable specimen of Mniotiltine architecture.

\* Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., XIV, 362.

**Auk, VI. April, 1889. p.103 - 104.**

*Geothlypis philadelphia*:

RARE WARBLERS IN MASSACHUSETTS. — In the wonderful flight or bird-wave, especially of the *Mniotiltidae*, that took place with us May 21 and 22 last, and for some species continued during a few succeeding days, three Mourning Warblers, all males, were shot near Fresh pond, Cambridge. These, in the flesh, were kindly shown me by Mr. C. J. Maynard.

At Framingham, † on the above-named dates, Mr. Browne and myself identified twenty species of Warblers — among them specimens of the Cape May, Tennessee, and Bay-breasted; of the last two several were obtained in Eastern Massachusetts. Among New England Warblers, collectors here consider *Geothlypis philadelphia* to be the rarest, and *Dendroica tigrina* next in scarcity. *Helminthophila peregrina* and *Dendroica castanea* follow, though in the fall migrations this latter species occurs in moderate numbers with more or less regularity. — H. A. PURDIE. *Newton, Mass.*

**Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct. 1882, p. 252.**

*Connecticut notes.*

*Oporornis philadelphia.* MOURNING WARBLER. — An adult male was taken May 30, 1917 at Mud Pond, a few miles north of New Canaan. The bird was feeding in low bushes and on the ground at the edge of a growth of high woods on rather a wild hillside above the lake. — LOUIS H. PORTER, Stamford, Conn.

*Auk* Vol. XXXV. 1918 p. 232.

*Geothlypis philadelphia*

1884.

Lewis Co., N. York.

June 2. Abundant at many places along the road from Lyon's Falls to Branningham Lake, as well as about the shores of the latter; almost exclusively confined to burnt tracts covered with charred logs and overrun with a tangle of wild raspberry and blackberry vines. The males were in fullest song & we heard them through wire the hot noon hours. In many places this was almost the only species but generally House Wrens were nearly as numerous and usually there were a few *Dend. pennsylvanicus* and *Geothlypis trichas*. Late in the afternoon Dr. Merriam found a nest with four fresh eggs, the female was sitting. She slipped off when he was within two or three yards and still quietly away creeping under the vines, etc. like a mouse. We shot both her and the ♂ which was singing, on a tall stub about 100 yds. away. The nest was raised about 2 1/2 inches above the ground and was built in a mass of dry last year's stalks of *Solidago*. The green sprouts of this year's growth were already several inches above the rim of the nest, and in a few days would have effectually covered it, but where found it was actually a conspicuous object several

Habits.

*Geothlypis philadelphia*

1884

Lewis County, New York

June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>. On these days I enjoyed exceptionally good opportunities for studying the habits of this Warbler which is actually abundant over many miles of country east of Black River. It is found almost exclusively in burnt lands where the fire has killed the birch & poplar growth overturning most of the trees whose charred trunks create the ground which is still further choked by a rank growth of raspberry & blackberry vines. About these log heaps, brushy tops, and in the dense beds of vines the Warblers find a congenial home. They

Catskill Mts. --- Batchelder.

*Geothlypis philadelphia*.— At Overlook Mountain I found Mourning Warblers, adults and young, near the top of the steep upper slopes of the mountain, in woods consisting mainly of scrub-oaks twenty or thirty feet high, with a good deal of underbrush of oaks and other shrubs, and with here and there a fallen tree. I mention this, as it seems contrary to the usual habits of the species which is apt to frequent such places as Mr. Bicknell found it in,—burnt land grown up with willow herb, wild red cherry, etc.

Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 295.

yards away. It is large belly, less pointed  
shaped than the rest of the species & in  
fact more like a Sparrow. It is  
composed outwardly of dry grasses &  
lined with horse-hair. The locality  
was a sandy flat burnt over last season  
with occasional brook stubs standing  
many charred logs covering the ground  
and everywhere a dense tangle of  
raspberry & blackberry vines. The ground  
was mostly about the nest was dry  
and moderately open.

French settlement, Concord, June 4. In  
the space of a few acres I shot ~~four~~  
Mourning Warblers & heard several  
others. They sang freely all the forenoon.  
I found a nest similar to that taken  
June 2, but not quite completed. It  
was placed in the fork of a raspberry  
bush about 12 inches above the ground.  
Locality burnt land similar to that just  
described.

The Mourning Warbler was peculiar  
habits. The species rarely on the ground but  
almost invariably from an elevated perch.  
A dead tree or limb, is preferred but of  
not obtainable it will sing among the  
densest foliage when it is very hard to  
see. It sits perfectly motionless usually  
in a crouching posture with tail depressed  
& feathers drawn in. It often sits clinging  
with the branch. It usually chooses the  
end of a horizontal branch about  
half-way up the tree.

with that of a warbler. The bird  
is dropping to the ground or about  
the feet of the tall weeds or about  
the feet of about from 10 to 15 feet  
high. The alarm note is identical

as that of a warbler. The bird  
is dropping to the ground or about  
the feet of the tall weeds or about  
the feet of about from 10 to 15 feet  
high. The alarm note is identical

one about and sitting often on the  
ground shaking like mice among  
the ones, and when flushed will  
almost always sing. I heard one very  
well for hours through places where  
they are abundant, without seeing one  
for the evening. I saw of his song  
once, then good specimens. But the  
specimens are easily secured when singing  
for they almost invariably sing from  
low elevated & conspicuous places.  
The favorite perch is the extreme  
end of a dead branch usually about  
one foot above the ground. I saw  
one perch on the ground. I saw  
one perch on a low one, always near  
the edge of a horizontal branch. The  
bird is very hard to see. They sit  
perfectly still in a crouching posture  
with tail feathers drawn in to their  
sides & legs very short. They often  
sing after being for fifteen or twenty  
minutes before returning to the ground.  
During the breeding they rarely  
sing or hop about but they  
often take long flights similar to  
those of a warbler when the nest  
is placed by a long thin branch  
or a number of short legs.  
The song is usually a trill of  
notes, the usually half winding up  
the song to the ground or about  
the feet of the tall weeds or about  
the feet of about from 10 to 15 feet  
high. The alarm note is identical

Catskill Mts. --- Batchelder.

Geothlypis philadelphia.— At Overlook Mountain I found Mourning  
Warblers, adults and young, near the top of the steep upper slopes of the  
mountain, in woods consisting mainly of scrub-oaks twenty or thirty feet  
high, with a good deal of underbrush of oaks and other shrubs, and with  
here and there a fallen tree. I mention this, as it seems contrary to the  
usual habits of the species which is apt to frequent such places as Mr.  
Bicknell found it in,—burnt land grown up with willow herb, wild red  
cherry, etc. Ann., VII. July, 1890, p. 295.

*Geothlypis philadelphia* Breeding in Western New York.—In my list of 'Birds of Niagara County, N. Y.', published in 'Forest and Stream,' Sept., 1889, I intimated that the Mourning Warbler bred in Niagara County. On June 13 last my suspicions were confirmed by finding a nest and eggs of this species. I was passing through a heavily timbered wet wood, and about ten rods from the western border I came to a small opening, three to four rods square, when, in about the centre of this opening, a bird flew from under my feet into the adjoining thicket. Glancing toward my feet I saw its nest and eggs, and on adjusting my field glass I saw that the bird was a female *G. philadelphia* and immediately shot it. The nest was placed in the centre of a clump of cowslips. The nest is composed of coarse grass and leaves on the outside, with fine grass inside and lined with hair. Measurement outside, 3 in. deep, 3.50 in. across; inside, 1.75 in. deep and 1.75 across. Eggs white, with a wreath of reddish brown and lilac on the large end, and finely blotched with brown over the whole surface. Measurements, .76 × .51, .77 × .50, and .78 × .50. I have the nest and eggs, and the bird mounted, which, with a fine adult male specimen received May 23, I consider a valuable addition to my collection. These specimens were taken in the same woods where I found *Dendroica cerulea* breeding in 1888.—J. L. DAVISON, Lockport, Niagara Co., N. Y. *Auk*, 8, Oct. 1891, p. 396

Breeding of the Mourning Warbler in Ontario County, N. Y.—On June 26, 1891, I was passing through a damp, low thicket when an outcry from a small bird drew my attention to it, it proving to be a female Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*). Her cries soon brought the male with a beak full of small green worms, evidently collected for the young, but on seeing me he quickly devoured them that he might better join in the remonstrance against my presence. After a short search I found two young birds, nearly grown and fully feathered, but unable to fly. I caught one and held it for some time, thus bringing the parents within a foot of my hand and permitting of the fullest identification. I could have shot them but forbore to do so hoping that they might breed there the coming season. This is the first time I have known this species to breed in this vicinity.—B. S. BOWDISH, Phelps, N. Y. *Auk*, 8, Oct. 1891, p. 396

General notes.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.  
C. H. Merriam.

36. *Geothlypis philadelphia* (Wilson) Baird. MOURNING WARBLER.—Common summer resident, breeding chiefly in the dense growth of blackberry and raspberry bushes that spring up on nearly all the burned districts.

*Bull. N. O. C.* 6, Oct. 1881, p. 228

Some Birds of Lewis Co, N. Y.,  
C. Hart Merriam

In the Eastern (Adirondack) region

*Geothlypis philadelphia*, is found breeding

*Bull. N. O. C.* 3, April, 1878, p. 53

*Auk*, XVI Jan., 1899, p. 85.

Notes on Two Rare Birds from Long Island, N. Y.—MOURNING WARBLER (*Geothlypis philadelphia*).—Giraud, in writing of this species in 1844 (*Birds of Long Island*, p. 65) says: "A few years since, a specimen was obtained by Mr. Bell on Long Island, the only one which I have known to have been procured here." So far as I am aware, there is no other published record of the occurrence of this species on Long Island, so I wish to place on record a specimen, now in the collection of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, taken at New Lots (now a part of the city of Brooklyn), in June, 1862, by George B. Brainerd.

Arthur H. Howell, Washington, D. C.

Notes on the birds of Madison County, New York.  
with especial reference to Embury's recent list.

29. *Geothlypis philadelphia*. MOURNING WARBLER.— Given as "a rather rare transient visitant. Occasionally seen during the summer." According to Mr. Miller it breeds rather commonly at Peterboro. I find it in high woods on the Stockbridge East Hills.

By William R. Maxon. Auk, XX, July, 1903, p. 266.

A DESCRIPTION OF UNUSUALLY DEVELOPED INDIVIDUALS OF THREE SPECIES, AND REMARKS ON UNCOMMON PLUMAGES IN SEVERAL OTHERS, TAKEN NEAR WEST POINT, N. Y.

BY EDGAR A. MEARNS.

1. *Geothlypis philadelphia*, (Wilson) Baird. MOURNING WARBLER.  
— A specimen of this species (No. 1000 ♂, May 26, 1876, E. A. M.) is remarkable for its high development. All of its markings are unusually bright; the chin, throat, and forepart of breast almost solid black; the feathers of the chin and upper part of the throat only exhibiting the faintest margins of ash. Professor Baird\* has remarked: "It is quite possible that in the full-plumaged male the entire throat may be black, as there is a tendency to this in some specimens."

\* Birds of N. Am., by Baird, Cassin, and Lawrence (Vol. IX of Pacific Railroad Reports), p. 244, 1858.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1878, p. 69.

### Nesting of the Mourning Warbler.

About the year 1877, in the early days of June, as I was nest-hunting in a piece of swampy woods near the railway track, about a mile south of this town, and while I was cautiously moving through a clump of low, second growth underwood, chiefly composed of swamp maple, my attention was arrested by a series of sharp chipping bird notes, and, gazing in the direction from whence the sounds came, I saw that the author was a small bird, whose plumage I then took to be of a uniform dusty brown hue. A little more research discovered that the cause of her solicitude was a partly composed nest, placed on the horizontal branch of a small cedar, a little over a foot off the ground. Her notes of displeasure soon brought her mate on the scene, and he, flitting among the newly acquired foliage of the shrubbery, added his notes in sympathy with hers, but from the glimpses that I then got of both birds, I did not discover any variation in their plumage.

I soon withdrew, leaving them to settle their little business, but intending to return in the course of a week or so, which I did, and on my approach, saw the bird seated on her nest, from which she flushed, and I found that it contained four eggs. These, with the nest, I removed, but on my way homeward threw the latter away, not knowing the prize I had in hand. These eggs have since remained in my collection, and, until lately, were labelled "Dusty Warbler." Referring to some notes, which I soon afterwards made, I find the following regarding this species: Its color is a dusty brown hue, with an olive tinge. Its common notes are a simple "chip," peculiar, too, and varying but little in the warblers. Its habitat is the outskirts of soft-wood timber lands, where there is low, thick underwood, in some thicket of which, sometimes on the branch of a small cedar or other evergreen, the nest is placed. This complicated structure is formed of dry stalks, fine strips of bark, and other woody matter, lined with fine hair. The eggs (four to the set) are white, with a sprinkling of reddish spots towards the large end.

Years passed away, and I saw no more of this species, or its nest; but during the season of 1887 some more links were added to the chain of my knowledge regarding it, and finally to its identity. On the 31st of May, of that year, I noticed coming out from among the willows, and other soft underwood, that grew on some low land adjoining my farm, the peculiar song notes of some small bird, which I did not remember to have previously heard. Desirous of becoming more acquainted with the little stranger, I approached in order to have a nearer interview. But the active little fellow, suspicious of my intentions, rapidly flitted from bush to bush, keeping himself well concealed among the leaves, near the tops of the underwoods, all the while, however, emitting his "Whit-a-dee, whit-a-dee, whit-a-dee" song. At length I got a good view of his plumage, and especially noticed his brown coat, yellow vest, and black throat.

I hunted in the vicinity for some time, but failed to discover any others of the species, or any appearance of a nest, except an old one that had been occupied the previous year, and may have belonged to this species. Some days afterwards I again searched the vicinity where my new found friend was still warbling his ditty, but failed to discover any nest, and as other work was pressing, I soon abandoned nest-seeking for the season, but almost daily,

when near that vicinity, I heard the little songster until the hay-making was in progress.

On the 4th of October, of the same season, when on my way to the Falls of Niagara, I called on Mr. Thomas McIlwraith, in the city of Hamilton, and among other specimens of mounted warblers in that gentleman's splendid collection, I noticed one which he informed me was the Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*). Afterwards referring to my notes, and reading the description of this species in his work, *The Birds of Ontario*, I became certain that the strange bird noted in the early summer was the Mourning Warbler, and that the nest above noted belonged to that species, and this conclusion has been confirmed by my observation of this species during the past season.

Now, viewing the set of eggs in my collection, I note that the ground color is a clearer white, and that the dotting over the surface and the coloration towards the larger end is more of a brownish hue than the coloring of the eggs of the more familiar Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), but in size and form there is scarcely any difference.

Early in May, of the past year, some pairs of this species made their appearance in some low places on "Wildwood," and for some days their pleasing songs, intermingled with those of the Water Thrushes and other warblers, enlivened the vicinity, but as June advanced their shifting about from place to place showed that they had not settled down to nesting, and towards the middle of the month they disappeared altogether.

William L. Kells.

Listowel, Ontario.

O. & O. XIV. Jan. 1889 p. 4-5

## Nesting of the Mourning Warbler.

On June 27, 1889, while watching a pair of Mourning Warblers (*Geothlypis philadelphia*) feed their young, which had just left the nest, I discovered that there was in the vicinity at least one more pair of birds, and that their labors were not as far advanced as the others was apparent by the presence of the male only, which showed conclusively to me that the female was at the time incubating a long sought for clutch of eggs, and at no great distance from me.

I was in hopes that the male would soon find some insect in his movements through the bushes that would be choice enough for his spouse, but my hopes were in vain. I watched him for an hour and he was not out of sight more than an instant at a time, and during this period he acted as if he wanted to decoy me away from where I was so comfortably seated on a log. So I finally yielded and he led me off some seven or eight rods into a thick patch of undergrowth and briars and gave me the slip. I passed on through the clump and returned by a roundabout way to an old tree top which I could conceal myself in, and which was about three rods from my former position. From here within less than fifteen minutes I had the satisfaction of seeing him alight on a stump with an insect in his bill, and after looking around for a minute drop into a little bunch of hard maple bushes which were about five feet from the stump, and in a short time I saw him return to the top of the stump without the insect.

I suspected something, but held to my place of concealment until the act was repeated, when I went to the spot and commenced parting the bushes, whereupon Mrs. Mourner came out, and although she appeared quite seriously injured I think she would have lived had not I shot her a few minutes later. In the centre of the bunch on the top of a little stump about four inches across from where these bushes grew was the nest, which contained three eggs, which upon examination proved to be about one third incubated. To make the identity positive I collected both of the birds.

The nest, which is before me, was placed about eight inches from the ground, and is composed of weed stalks with layers of leaves mixed in, and is lined with fine black rootlets, which was in fine contrast to the eggs which were of a pinkish-cream ground color when taken, but at present are as follows:

Egg No. 1. .71 x .56. Ground color creamy-white, marked with blotches of reddish-brown, and with lilac-gray shell markings. All of the blotches or markings with the exception of one (which is on the side) are on the larger end, in the form of a wreath.

Egg No. 2. .72 x .58. Ground color creamy-white. All the markings are wreathed around the large end in blotches and spots of light reddish-brown, with lilac-gray shell markings.

Egg No. 3. .71 x .55. Ground color creamy-white with blotches and spots of reddish-brown about equally distributed over the entire surface of the egg, and a wreath of lilac-gray shell marking at the greater end.

E. G. Tabor.

Meridian, N. Y.

*trichas*

# Geothlypis trichas

1889

May

Co. 4♂ - 11<sup>1♂</sup> - 14<sup>♂</sup> - 16<sup>♂</sup> - 17<sup>♂</sup> - 25<sup>♂</sup> - 25<sup>♂</sup> - 29<sup>♂</sup> - 30<sup>♂</sup> - 1889 31<sup>♂</sup> - 13<sup>♂</sup> - 15<sup>♂</sup> - 16<sup>♂</sup> - 17<sup>♂</sup> - 18<sup>♂</sup> - 19<sup>♂</sup> - 1890

June

3<sup>♂</sup> - 4<sup>♂</sup> - 5<sup>♂</sup> - 7<sup>♂</sup> - 9<sup>♂</sup> - 13<sup>♂</sup> - 16<sup>♂</sup> - 20<sup>♂</sup> - 21<sup>♂</sup> - 1889 1<sup>♂</sup> - 6<sup>♂</sup> - 8<sup>♂</sup> - 10<sup>♂</sup> - 12<sup>♂</sup> - 13<sup>♂</sup> - 14<sup>♂</sup> - 21<sup>♂</sup> - 1890

July

7<sup>♂</sup> - 16<sup>♂</sup> - 1889 6<sup>♂</sup> - 18<sup>♂</sup> - 19<sup>♂</sup> - 1890

Aug

28<sup>♂</sup> - 1889 1<sup>♂</sup> - 3<sup>♂</sup> - 17<sup>♂</sup> - 1890

Jan'y

31<sup>♂</sup> - 1890

May

2<sup>♂</sup> - 23<sup>♂</sup> - 24<sup>♂</sup> - 25<sup>♂</sup> - 26<sup>♂</sup> - 28<sup>♂</sup> - 29<sup>♂</sup> - 30<sup>♂</sup> - 31<sup>♂</sup> - 1890

9<sup>♂</sup> - 11<sup>♂</sup> - 12<sup>♂</sup> - 15<sup>♂</sup> - 21<sup>♂</sup> - 23<sup>♂</sup> - 24<sup>♂</sup> - 25<sup>♂</sup> - 26<sup>♂</sup> - 28<sup>♂</sup> - 31<sup>♂</sup> - 1891

10<sup>♂</sup> - 11<sup>♂</sup> - 12<sup>♂</sup> - 13<sup>♂</sup> - 14<sup>♂</sup> - 15<sup>♂</sup> - 16<sup>♂</sup> - 17<sup>♂</sup> - 18<sup>♂</sup> - 19<sup>♂</sup> - 20<sup>♂</sup> - 21<sup>♂</sup> - 22<sup>♂</sup> - 23<sup>♂</sup> - 24<sup>♂</sup> - 25<sup>♂</sup> - 26<sup>♂</sup> - 27<sup>♂</sup> - 28<sup>♂</sup> - 29<sup>♂</sup> - 30<sup>♂</sup>

Concord

trichas

"

6<sup>♂</sup> - 9<sup>♂</sup> - 10<sup>♂</sup> - 11<sup>♂</sup> - 12<sup>♂</sup> - 13<sup>♂</sup> - 14<sup>♂</sup> - 15<sup>♂</sup> - 16<sup>♂</sup> - 17<sup>♂</sup> - 18<sup>♂</sup> - 19<sup>♂</sup> - 20<sup>♂</sup> - 21<sup>♂</sup> - 23<sup>♂</sup> - 24<sup>♂</sup> - 25<sup>♂</sup> - 28<sup>♂</sup> - 29<sup>♂</sup>

June

24<sup>♂</sup> - 25<sup>♂</sup> - 26<sup>♂</sup> - 28<sup>♂</sup> - 1890 1<sup>♂</sup> - 2<sup>♂</sup> - 3<sup>♂</sup> - 1891

1<sup>♂</sup> - 2<sup>♂</sup> - 3<sup>♂</sup> - 4<sup>♂</sup> - 5<sup>♂</sup> - 6<sup>♂</sup> - 7<sup>♂</sup> - 8<sup>♂</sup> - 12<sup>♂</sup> - 13<sup>♂</sup> - 15<sup>♂</sup> - 16<sup>♂</sup> - 17<sup>♂</sup> - 18<sup>♂</sup> - 19<sup>♂</sup> - 20<sup>♂</sup> - 21<sup>♂</sup> - 22<sup>♂</sup> - 23<sup>♂</sup> - 24<sup>♂</sup> - 25<sup>♂</sup> - 26<sup>♂</sup> - 27<sup>♂</sup> - 28<sup>♂</sup> - 30<sup>♂</sup> - 1892  
Concord  
26<sup>♂</sup> - 28<sup>♂</sup> - 30<sup>♂</sup> - 1893

July

1<sup>♂</sup> - 2<sup>♂</sup> - 4<sup>♂</sup> - 5<sup>♂</sup> - 6<sup>♂</sup> - 7<sup>♂</sup> - 9<sup>♂</sup> - 10<sup>♂</sup> - 11<sup>♂</sup> - 14<sup>♂</sup> - 15<sup>♂</sup> - 16<sup>♂</sup> - 17<sup>♂</sup> - 18<sup>♂</sup> - 19<sup>♂</sup> - 21<sup>♂</sup> - 26<sup>♂</sup> - Concord 1892  
1<sup>♂</sup> - 3<sup>♂</sup> - 4<sup>♂</sup> - 5<sup>♂</sup> - 6<sup>♂</sup> - 7<sup>♂</sup> - 12<sup>♂</sup> - 13<sup>♂</sup> - 14<sup>♂</sup> - 17<sup>♂</sup> - 16<sup>♂</sup> - 19<sup>♂</sup> - 20<sup>♂</sup> - 22<sup>♂</sup> - 23<sup>♂</sup> - 27<sup>♂</sup> - 29<sup>♂</sup> - 30<sup>♂</sup> - 31<sup>♂</sup> - Concord 1893

Aug.

1<sup>♂</sup> - 2<sup>♂</sup> - 3<sup>♂</sup> - 4<sup>♂</sup> - 13<sup>♂</sup> - 14<sup>♂</sup> - 20<sup>♂</sup> - 21<sup>♂</sup> - 24<sup>♂</sup> - 26<sup>♂</sup> - 28<sup>♂</sup> - 30<sup>♂</sup> - 31<sup>♂</sup> - Concord  
2<sup>♂</sup> - 8<sup>♂</sup> - 12<sup>♂</sup> - 13<sup>♂</sup> - 14<sup>♂</sup> - 16<sup>♂</sup> - 19<sup>♂</sup> - 20<sup>♂</sup> - 24<sup>♂</sup> - 26<sup>♂</sup> - 27<sup>♂</sup> - 28<sup>♂</sup> - 31<sup>♂</sup> - Concord 1893

Sept.

1<sup>♂</sup> - 3<sup>♂</sup> - 5<sup>♂</sup> - 7<sup>♂</sup> - 4<sup>♂</sup> - 27<sup>♂</sup> - 28<sup>♂</sup> - Concord  
3<sup>♂</sup> - 8<sup>♂</sup> - 9<sup>♂</sup> - Concord 1893

Oct.

Concord  
1<sup>♂</sup>

December

24<sup>♂</sup>

# Geothlypis trichas

May	<p>Concord      Concord      E. Pond      Cg.      Barnstable Cd.      Cd.      Cd.      Cg. (1)</p> <p>3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* 4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>*    12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* 13<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 14<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>*    15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>*    17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>*    18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>*    26<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>*    27<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>*    28<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>*    26<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* (1)</p> <p>Concord B.      a.      Concord      Milton Hill      Plover      Ecl. Pond      Cd.      Cg.      Cg.      Cg.</p> <p>7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>*    11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* 12<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 14<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>*    15<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>*    19<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 20<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub>*    23<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* (1)    24<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>*    25<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* (1) -</p>	<p>1894</p> <p>1895</p> <p>1896</p>
	<p>2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> (Hilman) 1896</p> <p>2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> H.      7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* 10<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 13<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 14<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 17<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 18<sup>20</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* (299) 19<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 21<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 22<sup>6</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 29<sup>6</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 30<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 31<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* Concord</p> <p>2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* 4<sup>5</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 8<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 12<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* 16<sup>6</sup>/<sub>8</sub>* 17<sup>6</sup>/<sub>8</sub>* 18<sup>10</sup>/<sub>8</sub>* 19<sup>15</sup>/<sub>8</sub>* 20<sup>10</sup>/<sub>8</sub>* 21<sup>8</sup>/<sub>8</sub>* 22<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 23<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 24<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 25<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* (1)      28<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* (1)      30<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* (1)      Concord      15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* (1)      19<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* (1)      1899.</p>	<p>1898</p> <p>1898</p>
June	<p>1</p> <p>Great Id. Hyannis Cg.      Wareham</p> <p>3<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 5<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub>*    6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* (1)    7<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* (1)    10<sup>15</sup>/<sub>4</sub>*    11<sup>8</sup>/<sub>4</sub>*</p> <p>Cd. Hyannis Cd.      Cg.      Cg.      Cg.</p> <p>11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* 30<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* (1)</p> <p>Barnstable Cd.      22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>*      1897      1<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 5<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 7<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 9<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 12<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 21<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 22<sup>6</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 23<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 24<sup>5</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* Concord</p>	<p>1894</p> <p>1895</p> <p>1898</p>
July	<p>Milton Cg.      Milton Cd.</p> <p>8<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 19<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* ad    22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>*    25<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* (1)</p>	<p>1894</p>
August	<p>Cd.      Os.      Cd.      Cg.      Cg.      Cg.      Cg.</p> <p>5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 10<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* juv    12<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* juv    14<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* juv    23<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>* ad?    Full song    1894</p> <p>Cd.      Cg.      Cg.      Cg.</p> <p>9<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* 24<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* juv    1895.</p> <p>Cg.      Cg.      Cg.</p> <p>7<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* juv    5<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub>* juv    1897</p>	<p>1894</p> <p>1895</p>
September		
October		
November	<p>a, snow on ground</p> <p>8 (C.W. Townsend) 1879</p> <p>(not "Little Pond")</p>	
December	<p>3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> (Faxon) 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> (Faxon) 1891</p>	

trichas.

*Geothlypis trichas*

1889 Mass.

May 17, 22, 25 Cambridge. - On the 17<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> a ♂ was in in my garden.  
full song in the lilacs in my garden, undoubtedly garden.  
~~the~~ different bird on each date and equally certainly a  
migrant or <sup>at least</sup> wandering individual not as yet settled.

" 27 Bolles found a nest with five fresh eggs in the nest, 5 eggs.  
Fresh Pond swamps.

June 3 Wellesley Hills. - A ♀ building in tall grass & ferns on the bank ♀ building  
of a brook. She was collecting fine dry grass of  
which she took only three or four strands each trip. She  
usually went only a few yards from the nest in her  
search for it. The ♂ regularly accompanied her but did  
not aid her in any way. He sang occasionally but not often

" 14 Denton visited & took this nest with four eggs well nest has 4 eggs.  
advanced in incubation. The ♀ was not sitting but she  
came about trembling her wings & chirping. The nest was  
swarming with small black ants and its bottom  
contained a quantity of the egg-like larva cases of the nest infested  
young ants. Denton says that all of the other nests by ants  
of this Warbler which he has seen have been similarly  
infested.

July 16 Cambridge. - Heard two ♂♂ sing, each only once; one gave the  
ordinary song, the other the flight song.

1890

May 15 Concord. - ♂ sang on wing at 12 M. day cloudy & showery. He rose nearly straight  
to about 20 ft began his song just before he reached the highest Flight song  
point & finished when with a few feet of the ground at the end closing  
his wings & dropping like a stone. He prefaced a chee-chee-chee to the  
normal song and ended with a low, sweet tsee-oo

1890.

Mass.

Geothlypis trichas.

June 28 Martha's Vineyard. Exceedingly numerous throughout the wooded portions of the island being found in about equal numbers in the dense swampy thickets along the brooks in the valleys and on the brush plains where the perfectly dry, sandy soil was covered thickly with a low oak scrub.

The songs of most of the birds heard was more or less unlike those of our Middlesex Co. birds. I noted che-wée, chee-wée, chee-wée and chee-wée-chee, chee-wée-chee, chee-wée-chee, the latter not far from normal.

July 18 - Singing in beds of bullrushes about the shores of  
of Great South Pond far from any trees or bushes.

Geothlypis trichas.

Whitefield, N.H.

1897.            About three quarters of a mile up the Lancaster road, N. of our house, is a large clearing where the trees have been cut away, and bushes and weeds and grass have sprung up. This morning I walked into the opening a short way, when a female Maryland Yellowthroat flew up ~~flew up~~ from under my feet within a rod or two of the road. Looking down I found a nest built about four inches above the ground between the stalks of some Aster puniceus, which was abundant round about, and was from two to three feet high. The nest contained three eggs.
- July 18.            of our house, is a large clearing where the trees have been cut away, and bushes and weeds and grass have sprung up. This morning I walked into the opening a short way, when a female Maryland Yellowthroat flew up ~~flew up~~ from under my feet within a rod or two of the road. Looking down I found a nest built about four inches above the ground between the stalks of some Aster puniceus, which was abundant round about, and was from two to three feet high. The nest contained three eggs.
- July 19.            This morning I visited the Maryland Yellowthroat's nest and found that two of the eggs had hatched. The young were about as small as I can imagine a bird to be.
- July 20.            This afternoon I again visited the Yellowthroat's nest and found the third egg hatched. The three young are all right.
- July 23.            This morning I looked at the Yellowthroat's nest and found the three young ones all right and growing.
- July 25.            This afternoon a visit to the Maryland Yellowthroat's nest found the young ones quite well feathered and nearly filling the nest. I stroked the head of one of them.

Geothlypis trichas.

Whitefield, N.H.

1897. I paid another visit to the Yellowthroat's nest this af-  
July 26. ternoon. As I drew near, I saw the male bird for the first  
time. He had an insect in his bill and was hopping about anx-  
iously. I found the three young still in the nest, but they  
looked about old enough to leave it. They seemed pretty well  
covered with feathers, and all had their eyes closed as if a-  
sleep. I touched one of them with my finger and it immediately  
opened its bill for the expected morsel of food. It got none  
but opened its eyes and saw me, when it shot out of the nest  
in a twinkle into the grass. I could not find it and so I  
left it for the parents to look after. The other two remained  
in the nest.

July 27. My afternoon walk took me again to the Yellowthroat's  
nest. Approaching the spot I saw the old bird, the female,  
with an insect in her bill, flitting from bush to bush ner-  
vously. I looked into the nest and found that the young had  
gone. Two of the birds cannot be more than nine days old at  
the very widest limit, while <sup>one</sup> cannot be more than eight days  
old. This supposes that two eggs hatched immediately after my  
visit on the 18th, and the third immediately after my visit on  
the 19th, and that the young did not leave the nest till just  
before I visited it to-day, the 27th. I do not know whether  
the bird that flew from the nest on the 26th, returned again.

Walter Deane.

Geothlypis trichas.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.           Very common in moist thickets in fresh meadows and about  
July 5       the shores of ponds and not at all uncommon among bushes bor-  
to  
Aug.15.       dering stone walls and roadsides on high and perfectly dry  
ground. The singing record is as follows:- July 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>x</sub>, 18<sup>2</sup>/<sub>x</sub>,  
19<sup>2</sup>/<sub>x</sub>, 20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>x</sub>, 21<sup>2</sup>/<sub>x</sub>, 23<sup>1</sup>/<sub>x</sub>, 24<sup>1</sup>/<sub>x</sub>, 30<sup>1</sup>/<sub>x</sub>, August 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>x</sub>.

Birds of Upper St. John.  
Batchelder.

27. *Geothlypis trichas* (Linn.) Caban. MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT.  
—Common.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, April, 1882, p. 110

Birds within Ten Miles of Point  
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam

19. *Geothlypis trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—Not common.  
Saw two in the clearing about Mr. Allan Gilmour's camp on the Godbout.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct, 1882, p. 234

Summer Birds of Bras D'Or Region  
Cape Breton Id., N.S. J. Dwight, Jr.

52. *Geothlypis trichas*.

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887, p. 16

Summer Bds. Restigouche Valley, N. B.  
July, '83. J. Brittain and P. Cox, Jr.

- Geothlypis trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—Rare.

Auk, VI. April, 1889, p. 119

Birds of Magdalen Islands.  
Dr. L. B. Bishop.

56. *Geothlypis trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT.—I hardly like  
to include this species, as, although we found it fairly common in  
Nova Scotia, and are both positive that we heard its song many times on  
the Magdalens, I was unable to obtain a single specimen.

Auk, VI. April, 1889, p. 149

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.  
A. E. Alberger.

681. Maryland Yellow-throat. Common.  
Breeds.

O, 50, XV, June, 1890, p. 88

Birds of Toronto, Canada,  
by James H. Fleming,  
Part II, Land Birds,  
Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 85.

265. *Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*. NORTHERN YELLOW-THROAT.  
—Regular migrant, common May 8 to 31, and August 31 to October 6;  
latest fall record October 19, 1904; rare summer resident (June 6, 1905).

Summer Birds of the Cabot Mining Region,  
Nipissing District, Ontario.  
by Frederick C. Hubel. Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 52.

64. *Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*. NORTHERN YELLOW-THROAT.  
—Once met with, July 19.

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

31. *Geothlypis trichas*, (Maryland Yellow-throat).  
This species was observed near Farmington and a collector in that town assured me that he annually secured its eggs. Did not observe it in the mountain region.

O. & O. XI. Oct. 1886. p. 145

Summer Residents on Southwest  
Coast of Maine. T. H. Montgomery, Jr.

681. Maryland Yellow-throat. Common at  
Camden and Boothbay.

O. and O. 15. Nov. 1890. p. 162

*Geothlypis trichas.*

- 1896 Penobscot Bay, Maine.  
June 23 Sheep Island 1 ♀  
July 5 Deer Island, 2  
" 8 Isle au Haut, several  
" 15 Between Sedgwick & Blue Hill. A few.

Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem  
N.H. July-August, 1874. J. A. Allen

41. *Geothlypis trichas*. Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.154

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N.H.  
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '86. W. Faxon

56. *Geothlypis trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.151

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N. H. June 11-21  
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87, W. Faxon

71. *Geothlypis trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.153

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N.H.  
July 12-Sept. 4, 1883. F.H. Allen

*Geothlypis trichas*.—Quite common on side-hills.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 77

Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N.H.  
July 21-Aug. 11, 1883. F.H. Allen

*Geothlypis trichas*.—Quite common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 78

Shelburne, N. H.

*Geothlypis trichas*

1884.

July.

An uncommon bird here found sparingly  
in thickets along the river. The males sang  
freely up to about the 20<sup>th</sup>. I noted the song of  
one near the house as:— tr-wice-de-de, twice-de-  
de, twice-de-de

Rye Beach, N. H. July 23-24 1885.  
17. *Geothlypis trichas*.—Abundant—singing on river

*Geothlypis trichas*.—Very scarce.

Shelburne, N. H. Aug. 8-29-1865. R. D.

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

*Centropomus*

*Centropomus*

1894.

1895

16 1/2 16 1/2 2 1/2

*May*

27 2 30 3 1/2

*[Faint handwritten notes, possibly describing measurements or observations]*

Summer Birds of Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

69. *Geothlypis trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT. — Observed a few times in Stowe Valley; said to be not uncommon.

*Wilson B Bull.* Vol. IV, II, Oct., 1901, p.344.



Sept. 1 One among cedars on dry hill-top (Watutown)  
 " 12. A pair in our garden (Cambridge)

Princeton & Rutland, Mass. Aug. 2-1885  
 7. *Geothlypis trichas*. - Common - ~~in song~~ <sup>in air</sup>  
 E. Mass. 1885.  
 53. *Geothlypis trichas*. - June 11. E. 1. 7. Comm. <sup>in air</sup>  
 Pigeon Cove, Mass. July, 29-1885.  
 4. *Geoth. trichas*. - Common - 8 seen in air -  
 Princeton & Rutland, Mass. June, 18 1885.  
 13. *Geothlypis trichas*. - 8 on 10 1886.  
 Winchendon, Mass. June, 1883.  
 With tre 12<sup>4</sup> 13<sup>4</sup> 15<sup>4</sup> 16<sup>4</sup> 17<sup>4</sup> 18<sup>4</sup>  
 Falmouth, Mass. 1889.  
 2. *Geothlypis trichas* July 4<sup>4</sup> - 21<sup>4</sup>  
 Mass. (near Concord).

1887  
 May 8<sup>4</sup>\* - 10<sup>4</sup> - 11<sup>4</sup> - 16<sup>4</sup> - 17<sup>4</sup> - 21<sup>10</sup> - 23<sup>4</sup>  
 June 2<sup>4</sup>\* - 4<sup>10</sup> - 6<sup>10</sup> - 7<sup>10</sup> - 12<sup>1</sup> - 17<sup>4</sup>  
 July 7<sup>4</sup>\* - 10<sup>2</sup> - 15<sup>4</sup>  
 Aug. 1<sup>4</sup>\* - 9<sup>4</sup>\* - 10<sup>4</sup>\* - 13<sup>10</sup>\* - 14<sup>2</sup>\* - 15<sup>4</sup>\*

\* = flight song  
*Geothlypis trichas*.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.  
 June 25-30, 1889.

Mass (Winchendon)  
 1887  
 June 24<sup>3</sup> - 25<sup>20</sup> - 26<sup>20</sup>

West Townsend, Ashby, Mt. Watatic--- Abundant throughout the lower levels in this region, and found also on Mt. Watatic to the height of about 1000 feet; in full song during our stay.

*Geothlypis trichas* wintering in Eastern Massachusetts.—I have recently examined a male Maryland Yellow-throat brought me by a neighbor, which was caught by his cat in the latter part of January, 1884. He was unable to give the exact date, but is positive it was later than the middle of the month. The bird was in fine plumage and good condition, evidently not prevented by disease or injury from accompanying its mates southward at the usual season. As I can find no similar record, I thought it might be well to make a note of the above.—F. C. BROWNE, Framingham, Mass. Auk, I, Oct., 1884, p. 399.

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.  
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Sept. 12; Maryland Yellow-throats seen to-day.

O. & O. XI, Jan. 1886, p. 2

Birds of Bristol County, Mass,  
F. W. Andros.

*Geothlypis trichas* (Linn.), Maryland Yellow-throat. Summer resident, common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 141

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season  
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

69. *Geothlypis trichas*.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

*Geothlypis trichas*.

1895-

Falmouth, Mass.

July 12<sup>1/2</sup> 17<sup>1/2</sup> 20<sup>+</sup> 25<sup>-</sup> 29<sup>+</sup> ad.

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire  
Co, Mass. June 17-30, '88. W. Faxon

64. *Geothlypis trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—Common.

Auk, VI, Jan., 1889, p. 46

1888 Maryland Yellow-throat S. W. Denton

May 10. Heard one, the first this year  
" 11. shot one.  
" 13. Very abundant saw 12 or more.  
" 16. Saw a number on Howards Hill

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire  
Co. Mass. June 28-July 16. W. Faxon

61. *Geothlypis trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—Not rare, but not so abundant as *G. philadelphia*. Found to some extent in the same localities with the latter, but oftener at a lower level and in more cultivated country.

Auk, VI, April, 1889. p. 104

On January 31, 1890, I shot a young male Maryland Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), in the Fresh Pond swamps, Cambridge. When found he was in the company of White-throated, Swamp, Song, and Tree Sparrows, sticking closely to the tall weeds and dense shrubbery, under which he would run about on the ice, leaving the imprint of his delicate little feet on the thin coat of snow. He was in beautiful plumage, and plump, although the mercury within a week had fallen to 5° F. (probably lower in the swamp). Cf. Auk, I, 389. — Walter Faxon

Auk, VII, Oct., 1890, p. 409.

Connecticut, June. 1893.

*Geothlypis trichas*

June 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 4<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> Fairfield  
 " 5-3 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 7<sup>4</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 8<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 10<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 11<sup>2</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> } Saybrook  
 " 13<sup>6</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 16<sup>2</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 18<sup>4</sup>/<sub>8</sub> }  
 " 19<sup>2</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> }  
 " 21<sup>2</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 22<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 23<sup>6</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 24<sup>11</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 25<sup>6</sup>/<sub>8</sub> Andover

Very common here  
 frequent in the woods  
 especially near the edge of low lying woods  
 2 specimens collected about the  
 middle of the month  
 the birds were seen  
 feeding in the tops of  
 trees above the heads  
 of the birds, and  
 feeding.

Notes from Connecticut

*Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*. A young male with the bill twisted into much the shape of that of a crossbill — the maxilla bending over the mandible to the right with a notch in the side worn by the latter — was collected in East Haven on Oct. 4, 1905. It was fat and otherwise in good condition, and was feeding in the top of a small tree about twelve feet from the ground like the tree-warblers.

Louis B. Bishop, New Haven Conn  
 Auk, XLVI, July, 1906, p. 345.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.  
C. H. Merriam.

37. *Geothlypis trichas* (Linn.) Cabanis. MARYLAND YELLOW-  
THROAT.—Tolerably common summer resident.

Bull. N. O. C., 6, Oct. 1881, p. 228

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,  
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

May 9, *Geothlypis trichas*, (681. Maryland  
Yellow-throat.

O. & O. XI, July. 1886, p. 109

MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis trichas*).— A fine male of this  
species was noted and watched for some time on November 13, 1903.  
His late stay was owing, no doubt, to the congenial surroundings, formed  
by a thick growth of a species of wild honeysuckle, covering the ground  
and low bushes in a sheltered spot, remaining green late in the winter,  
and containing many warm and sunny sheltered nooks.

- Bird notes from Shelter Island, N.Y.  
Wells W. Woodruffton,  
Shelter Island Heights, N.Y. Bull. N. O. C., 1906, p. 287.

*Notes from Raleigh, N. C.*

Maryland Yellow-throat all arrived on April 1st, which bears out Prof. Cooke's observation that the night before the maximum of a warm wave brings most of the migrants. The night of April 1st was the night of maximum heat, but the birds must have come *before* then, as they were here *on* April 1st.  
—H. H. and C. S. Brimley.

O. & O. X. May. 1885. p. 80

Changes in the Plumage of *Geothlypis trichas*.—In the interesting review in the October 'Auk' (1885), of the tenth volume of the British Museum Catalogue of Birds, Mr. Allen very appropriately takes occasion to correct the gross error, into which most of the books have fallen, in regard to the winter plumage of the males of so common and extensively distributed a species as *Geothlypis trichas*. The error in question is a statement to the effect that in winter the adult male loses the conspicuous black and ashy markings about the head, and takes on the uniform olivaceous and brownish colors of the upper parts of the female. In making this correction, however, Mr. Allen, I believe, does not go far enough, for according to my observations the males not only never assume the plumage of the female after having once attained the masculine livery, but young birds moult directly into a plumage approaching that of the adult male (which will be indicated in detail farther on), when they begin in August to shed the well-known fluffy 'first plumage,' with its greenish and ochreish tints, brownish wing-coverts, etc.

There are, Mr. Allen states, instances in which the young male has been taken in winter in the female plumage, but these, I think, should be regarded as exceptional. I have examined very carefully the two large series of this bird (including Mr. Brewster's *occidentalis*, which, for the purpose we have in hand, may be 'lumped' with *trichas*) contained in the collection of the National Museum, and in that of Mr. Henshaw, besides ten or a dozen other specimens, amounting altogether to 144 individuals, and have failed to find a single winter male without the adult black and ashy markings. But I did find three spring males with these characters so imperfectly developed as to indicate, probably, that the birds had passed the preceding winter in the plumage of the female.

The changes in plumage when the young male begins his first moult, which occurs in August, in the latitude of Washington, may be briefly summarized as follows:—The feathers of the head and middle of the throat appear to be the first that are lost. The latter are replaced by yellow ones (not so bright, however, as in the adult), which at first are to be seen in linear blotches. Those of the head give place to a new set, of a fine chocolate brown color, shading off into olivaceous towards the nape in most birds, in some, however, extending over almost the whole of the upper parts. Before these two changes are completed, the first black feathers begin to show themselves in the maxillary region, and they gradually spread into an irregularly shaped patch on the sides of the head and neck. Nearly all of these black feathers are tipped with ash, the amount of which appears to vary with the individual. At this stage the black is quite similar to that which adorns the breast of *G. philadelphia*; and in this plumage the bird is the one described by Audubon (Orn. Biog., I, 1832, 124, pl. 24) as *Sylvia roscoe*, and is very common during the latter part of August and in September. The next step in this somewhat protracted change begins in September, when the black feathers make their appearance on the forehead at the base of the upper mandible, whence they continue to extend until the area usually covered with black is attained; and the border of hoary ash now appears sharply defined against the black mask and the greenish olive and brown of the rest of the upper parts. The ashy tips to the black feathers have now entirely disappeared. A New Orleans specimen (No. 90.665) taken November 22, undoubtedly a young bird of the year, illustrates this phase very perfectly. No. 2782, (Coll. H. W. H.), collected November 1, shows a stage preceding the last; the soft chocolate brown covers the whole back of the head, and the ashy band, which seems to be a very variable character, is very much restricted.

It may be well to state that of the 144 specimens examined of *trichas* and *occidentalis*, 24 of them were young August and autumnal males in various transitional stages of plumage, and there are none of them taken later than August 20 which do not show some traces of the changes above indicated. There is another peculiarity of young fall birds, female as well as male, which seems to be very constant, first pointed out, I believe, by Professor Baird (Rev. Am. Bds. 1864, 221), namely, the much lighter color of the bill as compared with spring birds.

During the past summer and autumn, the writer enjoyed excellent facilities for observing the Yellow-throat in his native haunts. A favorite collecting ground was an old forest-surrounded field, near Ellicott City, Md., through the centre of which ran a brook of considerable size, whose banks were fringed with such a dense and luxuriant growth of bushes and tangled vines as to meet over the middle of the stream, forming, as any 'bird-man' knows, a paradise for Yellow-throats, Chats, and other thick-loving species. On three or four different occasions during the latter part of August I penetrated this tunnel of verdure, and by employing the well-known 'screeching' device—making a noise-machine out of the back of the hand and the lips—attracted the usual mob of curious, scolding, and anxious little birds. The young Yellow-throats were particularly numerous in these excited assemblages, and once I counted seven young males with the incipient black masks, and two young females in sight at the same time, the most distant of them not twenty feet from the spot where I was sitting. During the following month (September), I found the young males in the transitional plumage quite common in Kentucky, where I collected a good deal.

There is one specimen in the National Museum collection that doubtless deserves special mention in this connection. The label thereof reads as follows:

"66,643. *Geothlypis trichas* ♂ ad. No. 104. Cleveland, Ohio, May 11, 1874. J. S. Newberry, M. D. Large testicles stated to have been found. Given to Smithsonian Institution by E. Coues."

Taken by itself the label presents nothing remarkable, but tied to the leg of this particular bird it affords us one of those by no means uncommon ornithological puzzles, which, in the language of Dundreary, "no fellow can find out." The bird is in the full spring plumage of the female, without a single trace of black or ash about the head.—CHARLES WICKLIFFE BECKHAM, *Washington, D. C.* *Auk*, 3, April, 1886, p. 279.

Mass. (Concord)

*Geothlypis trichas* ✓

1886 Long flight.

- May 7 This species apparently arrived this morning I heard three or four in all and both saw and heard one sing on wing rising after the usual manner some fifteen or twenty feet and singing as it descended. I am very sure there were none here yesterday.
- June 20 One ascending for song-flight this evening in the twilight. It prefaced the usual whistler by a few low notes and followed it by a short sweet warble just before dropping back to the ground.

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

*Geothlypis trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.

There is probably a dual season of song with this species, which is obscured by variation in the singing-time with individuals. Though it usually remains in song all through the summer, in the last weeks of July and the first of August singing is less general and less spirited than either before or after. Often after the middle of August songs will be louder and more frequent than for weeks previously. Singing may cease at any time from about the middle of August to the end of the month, or first part of September (August 12 and 19, to September 3, 4, 11 and 13); but September singing is unusual. The moult takes place in August, and is completed in September, when the birds become fat.

With this species the habit of song-flight is well developed. The little black-masked bird seems to believe it necessary that singing should continue through the whole course of the flight, and as the ordinary song, with which it begins, comes to an end while yet the bird is in the air, the time is filled out by a disarranged medley of notes very different from its usual utterance. I have not often seen these performances before mid-summer, and the August songs of the species are most frequently those which accompany these flights, which are oftenest indulged in the late afternoon or towards evening. This species, and the Oven-bird, and Yellow-breasted Chat appear to be the

only members of the family Mniotiltidæ with which the song-flight is a normal and regular habit.

Auk, I, July, 1884. p. 215-216

Auk, XV, Jan., 1898, p. 57.

The Aërial Song of the Maryland Yellow-throat. — The flight song of the Maryland Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas*) one finds stated in many of the leading manuals as never heard until late July or August. This miss-statement, known to be such by many ornithologists, I have never seen questioned.

I have noted this flight song in Eastern Massachusetts as early as May 16, only about a week after their arrival, and heard it off and on throughout the rest of May, June, and July. — REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., Longwood, Mass.

Cambridge  
Arlington, Mass. Maryland Yellow-throat. *Geothlypis trichas*.

Yesterday P.M. I walked from Cambridge to Arlington by way of the Fresh Pond swamps. Near Little Pond I heard the chip of a Warbler in the Cat-tails, but it was so dark that I could not make him out. My curiosity was so excited, that this morning I went there early, with a gun, and by dint of squeaking, brought the bird into view,--a (female) Maryland Yellow-throat. You remember that I shot a ♂ juv. in these swamps once in January. I did not shoot the bird this morning, as I want to see whether I can't follow her up in January. It is curious that the winter note of this bird, is altogether different from its summer note,--much less hard and sharp.

Walter Faxon (letter December 4, 1891).

Nest of the Maryland Yellow-throat.

On the 8th of June, 1892, I collected for the first time a set of the eggs of this species. It is only in comparatively recent years that this bird has made its advent in this locality, and only in one vicinity have I as yet observed it, or heard its song; and not until this season was I certain of its identity, though I knew it, at least the male, as a distinct species for several years past; and, having read that it was a bush building bird, had searched in vain for its nest.

On the day previous to taking this set of its eggs, I was crossing the burnt swamp on the back part of "Wild Wood" when a small bird flushed out of a patch of dry swamp grass a few feet ahead of my path. Her actions indicated that she had left a nest, and after a little search on my part this was discovered, containing three beautiful fresh eggs. I saw at a glance that this nest and eggs were new to me, but for a time I devoted my attention to the bird and her actions, in order to identify her, as her appearance was much like that of the female Mourning and Yellow Warbler, but I thought from the site of the nest that she was not that species. In a few moments, however, her chip-like notes brought her mate, who had been warbling his *whitidy*-like

song among some bushes near by, into full view and only a few yards off, and then by his deep black face and other markings, I identified the species as the Maryland Yellow-throat. The nest itself was deeply hid among a patch of dry swamp grass and so well concealed that if the bird had not flew out it would have been passed by undiscovered. Its foundation was rather suspended among the grass than placed on the ground, though it was several inches deep by about two inches across in the inside, and was composed wholly of fine dry grasses. The eggs were of a clear white color, with a ring or wreath of reddish-brown spots towards the larger end and a few dots of the same hue on other parts of the surface. Next day, when another egg had been deposited, I took the set.

On the 24th of the same month I found another nest of the same species not far from this, and placed in a tuft of dry grass about a foot from the ground, composed also of fine dry grass and containing two eggs of similar size, color, and marking. After four days, as no more eggs were added and no birds were seen, I collected these, but I found the yolks so hardened that they could not be extracted.

W. L. Kells.

Listowel, Ontario, Canada.

O. & O Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 132-33

A Few Nests Collected at Cornwall, Vt.  
Spring-1889. C. H. Parkhill.

Maryland Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Collected June 4th. I discovered the nest on May 26th, by watching the ♀ carry materials with which to build it. On May 30th the nest was completed, and on June 2d it contained three eggs, and on June 4th it contained a full set of five eggs. It was not a difficult matter to locate the nest by watching the old bird when building it, but after she had her set completed it was not so easy, as in going and coming from her nest she threaded her way through the tall grass, all the time keeping well hidden.

O. & O. XIV, Oct. 1889 p 150

I found a nest of the Maryland Yellow Throat this summer, situated about three feet from the ground; in a very thick bush. It contained one young Maryland Yellow Throat, one egg and one Cowbird, the Cowbird was as large as both the old Maryland Yellow Throats put together. Have any of the readers of the O. & O. found a nest of this bird in like situation?—W. H.

Notes from *White Leo. Pa.*

O. & O. IX, Nov. 1884, p. 135.

Notes from Iowa City, Iowa.

Last June I found a Maryland Yellow-throat's nest with three Cowbird's eggs in and none of its own, the eggs were all partly incubated.

Cesar C. Blute.

O. & O. X, Apr. 1885, p. 63

Sketches from Terrebonne Parish  
Louisiana. by E. C. W.

The Maryland Yellowthroat, that vivacious little member of our avi-fauna, finds the black-

berry bushes a secure place to fix its nest in. A walk through a patch of berry bushes in April, May and June, before the berry pickers are abroad, will certainly startle some from their briery retreat. Make an opening in the side of this dome-shaped berry bush from whence our bird has flown, and there—surely, if that is not a pretty nest, and if our bird has no idea of aesthetics, it is capable of accidentally arriving at wonderful results in the harmonious arrangement of forms and colors.

O. & O. X, Dec. 1885, p. 190-191

Large set of Eggs

Maryland Yellow-throat, 6;

A. H. Helme

O. & O. VIII, Oct. 1883, p. 76

## The Maryland Yellow-throat.

(*Geothlypis trichas*.)

BY CHAS. S. ANDROS, TAUNTON, MASS.

This beautiful little bird, also known as the Black-masked Ground Warbler, is generally ranked as common in this part of the State. It

abounds along the brooks and swampy lands, inhabiting bushes on the edges of creeks and ponds. The male cannot be mistaken after once being seen. The black mask completely covering the head, and handsome yellow throat are his most prominent features. The female is of a much duller hue, and her modest plumage is in great contrast with that of her mate. They arrive in early May and may be easily approached, not having that fear of man so often displayed by others of the family. The female, I believe, is rarely seen unless flushed from her nest. After her treasures are removed, she takes a silent farewell and is not seen about the locality again. Walking along beside some swampy land, a male will take alarm at the sound of your footsteps and fly from some bunch of ferns near at hand, quickly followed by another and another, until half a dozen have flown from the spot, and it is a mystery where they go. But if you proceed, another flock will leave the next large clump of ferns. Whether they believe in concealment or what their motive is, is to be solved. I have watched the ferns where they disappear, for perhaps twenty minutes, and not a sign, but move towards their place of concealment they immediately leave. Their nest is built in the latter part of May. Earliest date for fresh set, June 4. Latest date, June 17. The latter nest taken during the season of '82, contained five eggs of pure white ground and marked with scrawls and spots about the crown, with one or two black spots resembling a dot of "India ink." The nest is placed on or near the ground in some swampy land, composed of leaves and grass and lined with fibres and grass, arched over and with a small entrance. I have remained in close proximity with one some time before discovery. A nest found last season in a very low bush contained four fresh eggs. The bottom of the nest was thickly tenanted by black ants, evidently not in a very peaceable frame of mind, as my hand and arm testified on reaching home. How the female could share her home with such unwelcome guests, I cannot imagine.

O. & O. X. Apr. 1885. p. 60-61.

### BIRD CAUGHT BY A SPIDER-

You encourage correspondence, so I will venture to relate a little incident of last Summer which may not be new to old ornithologists, but was of interest to me. While endeavoring to add a few skins to my collection, I was attracted to the border of an open wood, last June, by a great commotion in a tree-top. Cautiously approaching, I found quite an excited assembly of little birds regarding with great anxiety a little yellow friend, who was fluttering and crying in great distress. He seemed to me to be hanging in mid air, but upon climbing the tree, I found that he was entangled

in a spider's web, from which his most violent struggles as I approached could not extricate him. The spider, one of those large yellow-bellied fellows, was actively engaged in winding him deeper and deeper in the meshes. The bird (a Maryland Yellow-throat) was caught by the legs, head and one wing. I stayed near by until he was nearly done out, then broke him loose with a branch, and had the satisfaction of having him sit quite near to me and relieve himself of the remains of the web, and also observed the disfigurement of the spider. *J. S. W. Myraud. W. D. Allegheny, Pa.*

O. & O. IX. Feb. 1884. p. 26

## Nesting of the Maryland Yellow-throat.

BY WILLARD L. MARIS, WEST CHESTER, PA.

A very interesting and quite common little bird of this locality, the Maryland Yellow-throat, (*Geothlypis trichas*) has for some time baffled my efforts to find its nest. However, this spring, I found the long looked for treasure, a beautiful set of five eggs.

This well-known bird arrives in this locality about the tenth of May, and after a few days spent in selecting a suitable nesting ground, at once commences building. During the incubating period, the female is seldom seen, unless a close approach to the nest, where almost her whole time is occupied, is made; and even then as soon as the nest is touched she will vanish in the woods. The males may be seen frequently and quite often not in the locality of the nest, which, together with the fact of its being placed on the ground in the woods at the foot of a bush, and being sometimes domed over, renders it no easy matter to find it.

On the 28th of May, of the present year, when on a collecting tour a few miles from home, I chanced to see a male Yellow-throat fly from the edge of a woods. It being a favorable place for this bird of course I immediately began a search, but for fully fifteen minutes no trace of a nest could be found, and I nearly trod on it before the female flew away, thus showing me her hiding place. The nest was made chiefly of bark, and lined with a little

horse-hair, and located in the usual place which this bird chooses, namely--on the ground at the foot of a small bush. It was rather bulky for so small a bird, and the black lining well set off the five fresh, pinkish tinted eggs. The brownish red spots were scattered all over the eggs, although chiefly in a ring around the larger end. On two there were a few small blotches. In size they were somewhat smaller than eggs of this bird usually are, measuring: .62 x .47; .59 x .48; .61 x .47; .59 x .47 and .61 x .48.

O. & O. XII. Oct. 1887 p. 159 162

*Nests in which Cowbirds eggs have been found*

*O. L. Poling*

15. *Geothlypis trichas*. Maryland Yellow-throat. A nest found in May contained one Cowbird's egg.

O. & O. XIV, Sept. 1889 p. 30

### The Maryland Yellow-Throat.

Out of the host of warblers that yearly visit us in the spring, *en route* for their summer breeding-grounds, only a very few make this the limit of their northern flight, and condescend to breed among us.

Going into the woods in the latter part of May, after the immense tidal-wave of warblers has passed us by, we may rest assured that the warbler-voices we now may chance to hear, are the voices of those warblers which will remain with us for the season.

Prominent among the utterances of these resident warblers, as one enters the woods in the last days of May is the simple, pleasing ditty of the Yellow Warbler, the more elaborate music of the Chesnut-side, the drowsy *buzz-buzz* of the Golden-winged Warbler, and strikingly in contrast to this last, the loud *tackle-me, tackle-me tackle-me* of the Maryland Yellow-throat.

These two last mentioned Warblers are most at home in low and swampy regions, and here their respective songs, so strikingly in contrast to each other, and so in keeping with the swampy surroundings, may be heard throughout the day;—the Golden-wing's so full of drowsiness as to indicate that the singer is just on the verge of falling to sleep, and the Yellow-throat's so loud and full of spirit and activity as though the singer had but one end to accomplish, and that to keep the Golden-wing awake.

Particularly is the swamp and the marsh the home of the Maryland Yellow-throat, you scarcely find him elsewhere. Let him find a swampy, boggy, peat-bed, abounding in stagnant pools and mosquitoes, and he is in

his element.

I was wandering about just such a marshy region as this one morning at five o'clock in search for nests of any kind, when I found my first nest of *Gleothlypis*. It was in the last week of May and I had come out from town at 4.30 A. M. on my bicycle, to see what the recesses of this swamp and adjacent woods might reveal.

Water was on every hand and I chose the higher, grassy elevations along which to pursue my way.

I had just leaped over a fence, and landed, both feet in a ditch of water up to my hips, filling my rubber boots to the overflow point; and chiding my luck, I was turning my water-soaked footsteps toward the highway, when, aha, a tiny, *pink-footed* creature, slipped out from a tussock of grass at the base of a little bush, a few yards from me, and flitted into the adjacent shrubbery.

Now, contrary to the custom in vogue among most collectors in writing about their adventures I am not going to relate how "I flew to the spot" and "examined every inch of ground" "in every direction" and "finally found the nest" which contained five of "the most beautiful eggs of this species that I had ever seen." No, nothing of the kind. I merely found the nest; whether it were an easy or a difficult task it matters not, and in the nest were five eggs of the Maryland Yellow-throat (for such the nest proved to be), and although the eggs are perfect gems of beauty, I have not the slightest doubt that there are hundreds of sets of eggs of this species in other collections just as pretty, and doubtless, some more so, than this.

I now have in my collection, a nest

eggs, and female bird, a pretty combination surely, but some way the nest and eggs do not look nearly so well as when tucked away in that tussock of grass at the foot of that little bush, shielded above by overhanging grasses, and dampened and cooled beneath by the nearness of the water, which had fairly soaked the rest. And somehow the form of the mother bird is not, by far, so pert, nor does the golden tinting of her glittering throat, glow with half the warmth it did when its possessor was flitting nervously about her boggy home to see why come I there.

And where is he, her partner? Perhaps, e'en now, 'mid the bogs and quagmires of some southern clime, he is mourning the fate of his sweet young bride, his mask of black most appropriate to his mourning morning.

But never mind, my sorrowing migrant, be aware of this much, thy pretty bride and treasures five have not fallen into unsympathizing and thoughtless hands. No, never, e'en while I took them, I felt the meaning of it all. And know ye this, that by the taking of them, the captor has been taught much of Dame Nature that he did not know before; and who knows, but in learning more of Nature, he has been drawn nearer Nature's God.

And so, cheered by these thoughts, can you not, my golden-throat, find courage to sing with unfaltering lips once more, that beautiful ditty of thine and may not these northern wilds, now desolate with winter's frost, be enlivened and inspired again in the spring by thine encouraging *weech a-tee, weech-a-tee, weech-a-tee?*

NEIL FRANKLIN POSSON, MEDINA, N. Y.

Auk, XIV, Oct., 1897, pp. 408-9.

Peculiar Nesting of the Maryland Yellow-throat.—While collecting in a large slough in Jackson County, Minnesota, on June 9, 1897, amid the green rushes where Long- and Short-billed Marsh Wrens were breeding, I ran across a pair of Yellow-throats (*Geothlypis trichas*) in some high rushes in about four feet of water, and upon investigating I found the nest placed almost level with the water in a thick clump of cat-tails, over fifty feet from shore, and right in the midst of a colony of Marsh Wrens. The nest was constructed of the usual materials—leaves, bark, and grasses—lined with grape-vine bark and hair, and contained two fresh eggs. This is, I believe, the first recorded instance of the Yellow-throat breeding over water, and is indeed surprising, as the nests are usually to be found in dense woods far from water.—WALTON I. WHITEHILL, *St. Paul, Minn.*

CORRESPONDENCE. ;

Auk, XV, Jan., 1898, p. 75.  
Habits of the Maryland Yellow-throat.

EDITORS OF 'THE AUK':—

Dear Sirs:—If the correspondence pages of 'The Auk' are open to minor matters of this kind, I should like to ask if the note on 'Peculiar Nesting of the Maryland Yellow-throat' by Mr. Walton I. Whitehill<sup>1</sup> in the October issue of 1897 makes a correct statement in regard to the Maryland Yellow-throats of Minnesota when it says "the nests are usually to be found in dense woods far from water." This is certainly diametrically opposite to the habits of this bird in the eastern part of its range, for here in New England I am sure that all observers will bear me out in saying that *Geothlypis trichas* is very rarely and perhaps *never* found breeding at any distance from water.

Yours very truly,

FRANCIS H. ALLEN.

West Roxbury, Mass.

Odd Nesting of Maryland Yellow-throat.—On June 15 of the present year a friend of mine sent for me to come to his house and look at a nest which was built in a shoe, and also to identify the birds. Upon arriving there I was surprised to see *Geothlypis trichas* nesting in a shoe. The locality chosen was near a back entrance to a house situated on the main street of our town. A pair of shoes, which were the property of my friend, were placed outside of the door on the under pinning which projected out from the side of the house about two feet. One day he had occasion to wear them and went out and brought them into the house; as he was about to put them on, he discovered something in one of them, and upon examination found it to be a nest.

The other shoe contained a few dry grasses and other fine material, but for some reason the bird gave up the idea of building in that, and took up housekeeping in shoe No. 2. My friend immediately put the pair of shoes back, thinking that she would return, and upon glancing into the shoe the next day was surprised to see that it contained an egg. She continued laying until she had deposited five. The next day after

the fifth egg was laid a dog came around near the back door and caught sight of the bird in the shoe and made a dash for her, the bird escaping, but breaking three of the eggs.

The shoe, nest, and two eggs are in my collection. The nest was composed of dry grasses and fine moss and lined with horse hair.—ARTHUR WILLIAM BROCKWAY, *Old Lyme, Conn.* Auk, XVI, Oct., 1899, p. 360-1.

ficent system of trinomials" to an absurdity. It is much easier to name a dozen new species or subspecies than to get rid of one, though erected on a false basis. Let us then weave our ornithological net so open-meshed that the undesirable small fry of incipient local forms may readily pass through and escape till further differentiation, in future ages, shall render them desirable captures.\*

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ON THE EASTERN FORMS OF *GEOTILYPIS*  
*TRICHAS*.

BY FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

THREE years ago I obtained in Florida several Maryland Yellowthroats which apparently differed from northern specimens of this bird. During succeeding winters additional examples were secured, but being unable to obtain summer specimens, which without fear of error could be considered resident birds, I was unwilling to call attention to what I supposed was an undescribed form of this species resident in Florida. Thus the matter rested until recently, when Mr. W. E. D. Scott very courteously placed at my disposal his entire series of Florida specimens. In attempting now with the aid of this additional material to determine the status of the Florida bird, I found it would also be necessary to ascertain the relationships of the Mississippi Valley bird, to which the Audubonian name *roscoe* has recently been applied. To this end, therefore, through the kind offices of fellow naturalists, I have accumulated a large amount of material, in all somewhat over three hundred specimens.

*The relationships of the Mississippi Valley bird.*— From this region I have a series of some sixty specimens, of which thirty-eight are adult males in breeding plumage; with these I shall make my comparisons. Occupying an intermediate geographical position between the true *patric* of both the eastern and the

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\* In this connection I would call attention to the sagacious note of warning sounded by Dr. Coues in 1884, in the Preface to his 'Key to North American Birds' (p. xxvii, second paragraph).

THE EASTERN FORMS OF *GEOTHYLPIS TRICHAS*.

BY FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

SEVENTEEN years ago, under the above-given title,<sup>1</sup> I described a Florida form of *Geothlypis trichas* as *Geothlypis trichas ignota*, which was later shown by W. Palmer<sup>2</sup> to extend through the coast region westward to Texas (Jackson County, Jan. 6) and northward to the Dismal Swamp in Virginia.

At the same time Mr. Palmer restricted the name *trichas* of Linnæus to the Yellow-throat breeding from southern New England southward through the Piedmont region into Georgia, while to the Yellow-throat breeding from southern New England northward he applied the name *brachidactyla* of Swainson.

This ruling was accepted as correct by the A. O. U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature, and we have had, therefore, east of the Alleghanies, three forms of Yellow-throat, a southern, a middle, and a northern. Many ornithologists, however, regarded this view of the nomenclatural status of these birds as far from satisfactory. That there was a Southern Yellow-throat and a Northern Yellow-throat was beyond doubt, but that an intervening form was also deserving of recognition by name has been frequently questioned. This opinion is voiced by Mr. Brewster<sup>3</sup> who says: "The characters by which the two forms are said to be separable seem to me trivial and I fear they are also inconstant . . ."

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<sup>1</sup> Auk, VII, 1890, 11.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, XVII, 1900, 223.

<sup>3</sup> Birds of the Cambridge Region, 1906, p. 354.

tinues: "J. Petiver, in his *Gazophylacium*, plate VI. has given the figure of a bird, which I believe to be the same with this; for which reason I continue the name he has given it: all he says of it is, '*Avis Marylandica gutture luteo*, the Maryland Yellow-Throat. This the Rev. Mr. H. Jones sent me from Maryland.' Petiver's

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<sup>1</sup> Gleanings of Nat. Hist., 1758, I, p. 56, pl. 237.

<sup>2</sup> Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1766, 293.

In preparing the manuscript for a monograph of North American Mniotiltidæ it seemed desirable, therefore, to reconsider the relationships of these birds. To this end Mr. Ridgway has kindly loaned me the pertinent specimens under his charge. I have also had birds from Doctors Bishop and Dwight, and have examined the collections of Mr. Brewster, of the Biological Survey, as well, of course, as the specimens in the American Museum of Natural History.

This material shows that the middle Yellow-throat, the so-called *trichas*, averages smaller and paler than either of the forms south (*ignota*) or north (*brachidactyla*) of it. The differentiation is so slight, however, and is so frequently bridged by variation as to invalidate the claim for distinction by name of this central form.

This, it is true, is a matter of opinion, but in examining the literature bearing on the question an interesting discovery was made which places the whole matter in a new light.

In applying the name *trichas* to the Yellow-throat of the Middle States Mr. Palmer accepted the prevailing opinion that the type locality for this form is Maryland. It appears, however, that this is not the case, the specimen which Edwards<sup>1</sup> figured and described, and which is cited first by Linnæus,<sup>2</sup> not having come from Maryland but from Carolina! Edwards's (*l. c.*) statement of its origin is as follows: "This bird was the property of Mr. Elliot, Merchant, in Broad Street, London, who received it, with others, preserved in spirits, from Carolina, in North America; and was so obliging as to lend them all to me, to take drawings of them" (*l. c.*). The origin of the name "Maryland Yellow-throat," which Edwards gave to his Carolina bird, as well as the cause for the erroneous belief that his type came from Maryland, is revealed by the remarks which follow the quotation just given. He continues: "J. Petiver, in his *Gazophylacium*, plate VI. has given the figure of a bird, which I believe to be the same with this; for which reason I continue the name he has given it: all he says of it is, '*Avis Marylandica gutture luteo*, the Maryland Yellow-Throat. This the Rev. Mr. H. Jones sent me from Maryland.' Petiver's

<sup>1</sup> Gleanings of Nat. Hist., 1758, I, p. 56, pl. 237.

<sup>2</sup> Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1766, 293.

figure is of the same size with mine, and hath such a black line from the forehead drawn through the eye: it hath, I believe, never till now been described, Petiver having given it only a name.

"P. S. Since the writing of the above, I have received the Yellow-Throat, together with a drawing of it, very neatly and exactly done, by Mr. William Bartram, of Pennsylvania, who hath enabled me to give a further account of this bird; for he says, it frequents thickets and low bushes by runs (of water, I suppose, he means) and low grounds; it leaves Pennsylvania at the approach of winter, and is supposed to go to a warmer climate."

The "Carolina" of Edwards, who wrote in 1758, included the North and South Carolina of to-day, his type, therefore, coming from within the range of *ignota*. The question, however, may properly be asked whether Edwards's type was not a migrant and hence, under the current status of this group, either *trichas* or *brachidactyla*. But, assuming that Edwards's type had come from Maryland, it might with equal pertinence be asked, how should we know that it was not a migrant *brachidactyla*?

Again it has been said that the present writer refused to accept Audubon's name *roscoe* for a Yellow-throat described from Mississippi as applicable to the form known as *ignota* on the ground that Audubon's type was doubtless a migrant from the north. (It was shot in September). The name *roscoe* was not rejected primarily for this reason, but because Audubon himself, presumably on the basis of actual specimens, referred his *roscoe* to the bird then known as *trichas*, and without positive evidence which would prove him to have been in error we have absolutely no right to reverse his determination.

On the basis, therefore, of locality alone, the name *trichas* is applicable to the southern Yellow-throat heretofore known as *ignota*; but, as a matter of fact, we have something more than mere locality on which to base an opinion, Edwards's figure and description being obviously more applicable to the southern than to the northern bird, while, although this now has no nomenclatural bearing on the matter, Audubon's figure of *roscoe* is quite as certainly *not* based on the southern form.

What then, assuming that this view of the matter is correct, becomes of the form lately known as *trichas*, the Maryland Yellow-throat?

Wilson used the Brissonian name *marylandica* as a pure synonym of *trichas*, with which *personatus* of Swainson is also synonymous. Fortunately, therefore, unless someone desires the questionable distinction of standing as sponsor for the form lately known as *trichas*, we shall not have to consider its claims to nomenclatural standing but may apply Swainson's name *brachidactyla* to all the Yellow-throats north of the range of *trichas* (= *ignota* Chapm.). Thus we shall have in eastern North America:

*Geothlypis trichas trichas* (Linn.).

SOUTHERN YELLOW-THROAT.

*Turdus trichas* Linnæus, Syst. Nat., Ed. 12, I, 1766, 293. (Type locality, Carolina.)

*Range*.—Florida, westward through the Gulf Coast region to Texas; north through the Atlantic Coast region to Virginia (Dismal Swamp); winters from South Carolina southward and also in Cuba (*cf.* Ridgway).

*Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla* (Swains.).

NORTHERN YELLOW-THROAT.

*Trichas brachidactylus* Swainson, Anim. in Menag., 1838, 295. (Type locality, "northern provinces of the United States".)

*Range*.—North America from the "more western portion of the Great Plains" (Ridgw.) eastward, north to Manitoba and southern Labrador, south to the Austroriparian region; winters from the Gulf States southward to the Bahamas, Greater Antilles, Mexico, and Central America.

ORIGIN OF THE FORMS.

An interesting fact developed by Mr. Palmer (*l. c.*) in his discussion of the relationships of these birds is that the central form of the Yellow-throat, to which he restricted the name *trichas*, averages smaller and paler than the form to the north and to the south of it. The extreme northern form of Yellow-throat, therefore, is, apparently, not connected with the southern Yellow-throat by,

so to speak, a graduated scale of regularly arising, cumulative differences, but at their points of contact they are more unlike than at their geographical extremes.

We consequently are led to consider the possibility of the Yellow-throats having acquired their present range through some such method of progress as the Grackles appear to have followed,<sup>1</sup> and an earlier stage of which the Loggerhead and Migrant Shrikes exhibit. An apparently not dissimilar case is afforded by the Parula Warblers, in which the New England form is the same as that found in the Mississippi Valley.

In other words, Yellow-throats may have advanced from Florida northward, and also from the Mississippi Valley eastward and northward; when, as has been said, the Northern Yellow-throat is not a direct geographical offshoot of the southern bird, although both doubtless had a common point of origin. Intergradation, therefore, is not necessarily climatic but follows actual contact occasioned by extension of range.

*Auk*, XXIV, Feb., 1907, p. 30-34.

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*Icteria  
virens*

Icteria virens

1889 Mass

May 15 Stoneham. - "I have seen two Chats, one of them in a place where a pair bred last summer." (B. Torrey letter of May 17-1889) Arrival

"My only Chat dates are as follows: (Torrey in lit. May 20/89)

Melrose, May 17-1887 Arrivals

Saugus, " 11 - 1888

Stoneham, " 15 - 1889

X

" 30 Swampscott. - A nest with 4 eggs found by H. A. Purdie & taken by the Jeffris Bros. Three ♂♂ were heard singing during a long tramp. nest, 4 eggs

June 6 Stoneham. - "One pair of my Chats had young on the 6<sup>th</sup>" (Torrey letter June 9-89)

1890

June 14 Swampscott. - Heard four birds singing to-day and one yesterday. Found three nests, one with 2 young about 5 days old & an added egg, another (to-day) with 4 fresh eggs, and the third empty. Notes on nests & nesting habits  
One was in a dense thicket of privet but built in a barberry, another in dense thicket of barberry but on the edge of an opening, the third in an isolated clump of blueberry bushes in a pasture but near a dense thicket. All three were within a few rods of swampy runs.

The bird with young was very bold coming within eight or ten feet and making a loud, harsh note which struck me as being intermediate between the scream of a Cat-bird and the par-ah of a Night Hawk. It was a peculiarly disagreeable sound producing an irritating effect on the nerves of the listener. The ♂ of the nest with eggs was singing freely; the other four birds intermittently. All three nests were at a height of about 4 ft. and all were very conspicuous. Jeffris tells me that the ♂ habitually sings within 20 yds. of the nest.

*Icteria virens*

1895 Mass.

May 11 Dorchester District, Boston. A female shot by Foster H. Brackett.

The locality where it was taken is within ten miles of Cambridge (cf letter F. H. B. Dec. 6, 1895)

I have no reason to believe that the shot was other than a migrant, for several reasons. It was shot during the large wave of May 9-10-11 when birds of all kinds were very abundant. The bird was exceedingly wild & difficult to approach xxx. The ovaries did not show any particular signs of breeding more than was to be expected at this season of the year. I searched the whole locality carefully but did not see another Chat. (Brackett letter Dec. 11, 1895)

Prof Bumpus of Brown University who formerly lived in Dorchester spent the evening at my house a few weeks ago and says he used to find the Yellow-breasted Chat almost every season in Dorchester. He has found its nest on one occasion and thinks it breeds regularly (or used to when he lived here) as he used to enjoy the song and watch the antics of the birds.

He has given me a carefully drawn plan of the spot and I hope to look for them this season! (Foster H. Brackett Nov. 12, 1896)

" " " " " "

Icteria virens.

Concord, Mass.

My first record for Concord.

1898. Spent the forenoon on the meadow shore opposite Ball's  
June 9. Hill. " " " I heard the first Chat that I have ever met with in  
Concord. It sang two or three times very near me in oak scrub  
(sprout oaks of two years' growth) near the roadway that comes  
down to the meadow from the Nevins farm. I think the bird,  
if established there, must be nesting on the other side of  
the pasture where, along a rail fence, stretches a thicket of  
green briar that would do credit to southern Connecticut or  
the Middle States. Arnold says that he drove a cow into this  
thicket last year and that she was absolutely unable to force  
her way through it.

The Yellow-breasted Chat and Summer Redbird in Canada.—On the 16th of May, 1884, I found the dead body of an olive-backed bird lying on the ground. The maggots fell from it as I took it up, but it was still in condition to show that had I found it a few days sooner I would have added to my collection a perfect specimen of the Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*). The bird had evidently been killed by flying against the telegraph wires which pass near where it was found.

Ten days later, when visiting Mr. Dickson, station master of the Grand Trunk Railway at Waterdown, he pointed out to me an old unused mill-race, grown up with briars and brambles, where the day previous he had seen a pair of Chats mated. Mr. Dickson was collecting at the time, and was surprised at their suddenly appearing within ten feet of him, but on his trying to get to a safer shooting distance they disappeared in the thicket and did not again become visible, though they kept continually scolding at him. These are the only records I have of this species being noticed in Canada.

Thomas M. Ilwraith,  
Auk, I, Oct., 1884. p. 389. Hamilton, Ontario.

### Yellow-Breasted Chat in Ontario.

On June 6, when about a mile farther up the Point, the writer heard a strange note, and at every search for the author found an Orchard Oriole, and, not being very familiar with that bird, attributed the note to it. Shortly afterward Mr. Bailey arrived at the same place, and called out, "Did you hear the Chat?" Instantly every one was on the *qui vive*, and after some time a glimpse of the bird was obtained, but not the bird itself. A hunt for it on the two following days was finally rewarded by the capture of a fine female Yellow-breasted Chat, with ovaries as large as a pea. Further search resulted in nothing more than this, the first capture in Canada; and though we looked carefully, we did not even find the beginning of a nest. Reference has already been made in 'The Auk' to the remains of a specimen of this species that Mr. Thos. McIlwraith picked up at Hamilton, Ont. No doubt they are regular summer visitors at Pelee Island, Point Pelee, and some places along the shore of Lake Erie.

Auk, 2, July, 1885. p. 308. W. E. Saunders,  
London, Ontario.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,  
by James H. Fleming.  
Part II, Land Birds. Hypothetical list.  
Auk, xxi, Jan. 1907. p. 88.

27. *Icteria virens*. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—Mr. John Boyd, of Sarnia, has a specimen which he believes was taken at the Humber in 1889, but he was never able to trace the bird back to the original collector.

**General Notes.**

**The Yellow-breasted Chat in Maine.**—In the autumn of 1893,—she believes it was during the month of September,—Mrs. William Senter, of Portland, found upon her lawn the mangled remains of a small bird. It had apparently been mouthed by a cat. Mrs. Senter cut off its head, legs, wings and tail, and preserved them. A few days ago, the relics were shown me. They were those of a Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) in full autumn plumage. Thus is a bird added to the Maine list.—  
NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

**Ank XI. Oct. 1894 p. 331**

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. June 29, 1883,  
noticed a pair of Yellow-breasted Chats  
feeding young about half-fledged, first I  
ever saw breeding in this locality; next day  
found another Chat's nest with four young.

O. & O. VIII. Dec. 1883. p. 96. —  
*F. H. Carpenter, Rehoboth, Mass.*

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS. Yellow-breasted Chat.  
Arlington Heights. A specimen was taken June  
6th.—[W. P. Hadley.

O. & O. 15. July, 1890. p. 111.

772. *Yellow-breasted Chat.* By F. H. Carpenter. *Ibid.*, p. 96.— Breed-  
ing at Rehoboth, Mass.—J. A. A.

O. & O. Vol. VIII

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. W. H. Wright  
took a male Yellow-breasted Chat at Fram-  
ingham, Mass, May 18, 1883. O. & O. VIII. Aug. 1883 p. 64

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.  
F. W. Andros.

*Icteria virens* (Linn.), Yellow-breasted Chat.  
Summer resident, very rare. Breeds.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 141

Notes on Birds of Winchendon, Mass.  
William Brewster.

*Icteria virens*.—Mr. Bailey shot a male of this species May 30, 1888.

*Auk*, V, Oct., 1888. p. 392

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season  
at Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

70. *Icteria virens*. \* *Not common*

*Auk*, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

The Yellow-breasted Chat Breeding in Malden, Mass.—On June 2,  
1887, while exploring a large tract of wooded swamp in the eastern part of  
Malden, I was so fortunate as to discover a nest of the Yellow-breasted  
Chat (*Icteria virens*). The bird was sitting when I approached the nest  
which was almost completely concealed by the thickly-clustering leaves  
of a dense, stunted witch-hazel bush growing in a partially cleared tract  
of swamp. She sat very close, and made little complaint when she flew.  
The nest held five eggs, the full complement, which I found to have been  
incubated a few days. I visited the nest several times, nearly always finding  
both parent birds near it. A brood of three was successfully reared, and  
left the nest on June 19. The nest is now in my possession. It was  
built three and a half feet from the ground, and is very thick-walled and  
deep. On June 29 and 30 I saw a Chat that might have been the male of  
this pair. On both occasions he was in a dense thicket fully a mile from  
the nest.—H. P. JOHNSON, *Everett, Mass.* *Auk*, V. Jan. 1888. p. 116.

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire  
Co., Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Faxon

65. *Icteria virens*. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—One pair, Sheffield.

*Auk*, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 46

62. *Icteria virens*. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—I was somewhat surprised to find a pair of Chats near the North Adams Reservoir (altitude, about 1050 feet), within half a mile of Hermit Thrushes, Black-and-yellow, Black-throated Blue, and Canadian Warblers, and Snowbirds, at the same elevation.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p.104

Cape Cod, Mass, 1880. G.S. Miller  
Auk, VIII, Jan, 1891, p. 119.

*Icteria virens*.—An adult male was found dead near one of the poles upon which the storm signals are hoisted at the U. S. Signal Station at Highland Light on the morning of September 10. As birds frequently kill themselves by flying against these poles during the night, it is probable that this one was so killed during the night of the 9th or early morning of the 10th. There was a large migration of shore birds past Highland Light on the night of September 9, *Phalaropus lobatus*, *Totanus melanoleucus*, *T. flavipes*, and *Charadrius dominicus* being common, while of *Actitis macularia*, *Calidris arcuaria*, and *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* one individual each was seen. Up to midnight, when I left the light, but one land bird, a *Dendroica*, probably *D. striata*, was seen.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

*Icteria virens*

1884

Cambridge, Mass

May 22. One heard, seen, and shot at  
by Bancroft in the Fresh Pond  
Swamps.

May 24. Belmont, Mass. Heard one  
singing near the eastern end of  
the Willows. I soon discovered him  
in the upper branches of a young elm  
overlooking a tract of dense but not  
briny thickets. He went through his  
"flopping" performance repeatedly.  
He was apparently located for the

Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.  
*Icteria virens*. One shot May 22 by Bancroft

\* 130 Yellow-breasted Chat ♂  
Dorchester Mass

H.C. Bumpus. (In W. E. Coll. Bos., Dec. 1884.)

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire  
Co. Mass. June 28-July 16. W. Faxon

62. *Icteria virens*. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—I was somewhat surprised to find a pair of Chats near the North Adams Reservoir (altitude, about 1050 feet), within half a mile of Hermit Thrushes, Black-and-yellow, Black-throated Blue, and Canadian Warblers, and Snowbirds, at the same elevation.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p.104

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des. for although in  
apparently clear & fine to  
some distance he always  
returned. He was very  
shy but I brought finally  
shot him & gave him  
to me

Cambridge, June 8. The Chat  
seen and shot at by Hensel  
on May 22 has remained in  
the same spot ever since &  
scarcely 10. discovered its mate  
and nest. The latter was  
visited by him this morning  
and found to contain  
three eggs.

June 9. Hensel took his  
Chat's nest & shot both  
parents. The nest contained  
three eggs one the 5th, but no  
more have been since added.  
June — H. A. Purdie took  
a Chat's nest with  
eggs in Boston, Mass.

Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.

*Icteria virens*. One shot May 26 by H. A. Purdie

\* 130 Yellow-breasted Chat ♂  
Dorchester Mass

H. C. Bumpus. (In W. S. Coll. Box, Dec. 1888.)

Ayre, Mass.

*Icteria virens*

1885-

Breeding in E. Mass.

May-June. Mr. John Whitcomb of Ayre, Mass. tells me that two pairs of Chats have bred near his house this season. He saw both pairs feeding young on wing. He also saw a pair in the same vicinity in 1883 but searched for them in vain in 1884.

Mr. Forbush of Worcester, Mass. also writes me that he has found the Chat breeding near that city the past season.

Mass. (Worcester Co.)

*Icteria virens*

1886.

Mr. S. Peery tells me that one or two pairs are found breeding near Worcester each season.

E. Mass.

*Icteria virens*

1888

" I take it the Chat is becoming somewhat common in E. Mass. I saw one last year, Mr. Purdie tells me he found one in Dorchester the other day, and I have two pairs here [Melrose Highlands] some miles apart. Have just found a nest with one egg.  
(Bradford Torrey, letter June 2, 1888)

Icteria virens -

Brookline, Mass.

with my Soney yesterday I saw a Chat  
and heard another. This is the first Wellesley  
heard or at least in his vicinity. They  
were in song and went thro' (the male)  
their performance on the wing. These  
with a Cape May in the Public Garden  
have made it a rich warbler year, the Chat  
making my 22nd.

Sincerely yours

Guy Emerson

{ Brookline Mass  
78 Powell St.  
Letter to Mr Brewster

May 25, 1902.

the Chat incident. If the matter  
is on record in the minutes of the  
Audubon Club I think there is no  
good reason to question the occurrence,  
as I should not have reported  
the case unless there was justi-  
fication for it -

Sincerely

J. Allen

✓ Orig. record in Audubon Club under meeting of  
Aug 5, 1876: - "Mr. Allen spoke of seeing  
a specimen of Icteria virens in  
Cambridge on the 3<sup>d</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> inst."

1884

Icteria virensCambridge  
Mass.

May 22. A ♂ seen in the Maple Swamp by Lomb. He "was sitting in the top of a bush dipping water out his wings" I "had a firm shot at him but missed".

June 4. Found the Chert's nest with two eggs. I had been watching this nest, which I supposed was the Chert's, for some time but as I never saw the female bird and never the male near the nest I was not sure.

June 9. Nest with set of 3 eggs taken & both parents birds shot. "I took my gun this time as I was sure I could not get the birds with my pistol. The female stood off the nest and within of the birds made any fuss while I was at the nest. Keeping out of sight although I was not long from one of their eyes."

By water book C. R. Baird

Connecticut, June, 1893,

Icteria virens

June 3 <sup>10</sup> 4<sup>7</sup> \* Fairfield  
 " 5<sup>7</sup> (nest 4 eggs) - 6<sup>10</sup> \* 7<sup>6</sup> \* 8<sup>8</sup> \* } Saybrook  
 9<sup>2</sup> \* 10<sup>6</sup> \* 13<sup>8</sup> \* 4 fresh eggs, 17<sup>1</sup> \*  
 19<sup>1</sup> \*  
 22<sup>2</sup> \* 24<sup>3</sup> \* 25<sup>1</sup> \* Andover

Fairly well distributed but very common in the Andover region, at Fairfield and about Saybrook. In the most abundant places frequently every kind of ground where there was thickets of bushes but most numerous in portions sprinkled with red cedars & filled with thickets of shrub Amelanchier & Saxifraga viridifolia var. angustata. Nest rather common & usually found, in cedars, pines, maple & ash sapling of near Podocarpus usually in a hole in the edge of sapling.

CHAT'S NEST.—Oct. 12th, found at Noank an old Chat's nest in a sweet-brier bush, filled to the brim with leaves and debris, but from which eggs were protruding. Took a stick and poked out seven eggs, to wit, three Cowbirds' and four Chats, all with holes picked in them. Oct. 13th. Snow-birds common.—J. M. W.

O. & O. Vol. 111. Feb. 1883. p. 15

Connecticut, June, 1893,

Icteria virens

Quit; quack-quack-quack quack  
quack, quack  
ca ca ca ca ca ca ca, ca, ca; ca  
 (very like throat of T. l. l.)  
qui, qui, qui  
quack quack quack quack  
quack like a note of Turdus thorensis very liquid

a bird flying up to spine of cedar to sing chuffed his wings chauply like a robin but less loudly  
thi. ti. ti by ♂ in intimate of song & birds extending like call of Bartramia longicauda.

alarm notes when nest is approached:  
sqwa a a k <sup>or skaw</sup> a note of quack - ca ca ca ca.  
 a rough caw ca. ca. ca.

Evidence of Carolinian Fauna in Hudson Valley.

E. P. Bicknell.

at Riverdale, N. Y. *Icteria virens*, regularly occurs.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, July, 1878, p. 129.

CAPTURE OF THE YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT AT ALBANY, N. Y.—In the latter part of May, 1882. I observed two birds of the appearance of the Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) in a sunny thicket between two small pieces of woods. But as they were silent and very shy, I was not positive of their identity. On the 19th of May of the present year, while collecting in the same thicket, I heard the unmistakable notes of a Chat. Its cries were very frequently uttered, but so shy was the bird, that, although searching for him nearly every day afterwards, it was not until the 26th of the same month that I secured him.

On the 19th of May I also secured three Northern Phalaropes (*Lobipes hyperboreus*, Cuv.) at a small lake near Albany.—G. A. LINTNER, Albany, N. Y. Bull. N. O. C. 8, July, 1883, p. 180.

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,  
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

May 11, *Icteria virens*, (683). Yellow-breasted Chat.

O. & O. XI, Aug. 1886, p. 125

Grandview Island Yellow-  
breasted Chats were very common.  
I saw B. Griffing, Shelter Island N. Y.  
May 26, 1885  
O. & O. VIII, Dec. 1883, p. 96

Auk, XII, Oct., 1895, p. 393.

Notes from Western New York.

*Icteria virens*.—On June 17, 1895, I secured a male Yellow-breasted Chat in a bushy pasture at West Seneca. I first saw the bird two days before, when I spent some time looking for its nest. Also looked for the nest on the above date, but found none. This was the only bird I started. It is the second record for Erie County.—JAMES SAVAGE, Buffalo, N. Y.

Auk, XV, Oct., 1898, pp. 331-2.

The Yellow-breasted Chat in Oneida County, N. Y.—On June 6, 1898, in a pasture, situated on high ground, well filled with second growth shrubs and bushes, and with a very small spring brook flowing through the centre, I took a nest and four eggs of the Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*). Only one pair of birds was found, and I am assured by Mr. Egbert Bagg, of Utica, N. Y., who was the compiler of the list of Oneida County birds, that this is the first known record of the occurrence of the Yellow-breasted Chat in Oneida County.

A Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*) made his first stop here this season, although they are resident in localities twenty miles to the east or west.—W. J. B. WILLIAMS, Holland Patent, N. Y.

Some Birds of Unusual Occurrence  
in Orleans Co., N. Y.

*Icteria virens*. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—On Memorial Day, 1895, near Shelby Center, I saw an individual of this species, using the opera glasses upon it at short range. I was led to the bird by first hearing it pour forth a most indiscriminate medley of all kinds of notes. Also Mr. Fred C. Lusk of Holley took a male in full plumage near that place May

8, 1880, and another occurrence which I have not yet had opportunity to investigate is recently reported to me from the eastern part of the county.

Neil F. Rossion.

Medina, N. Y.

Auk, XVI, April, 1899, pp. 193-6.

*Some Rare Occurrences in Yates County, N. Y. —*

*Icteria virens*, YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. — Of rare occurrence in this county. On May 30, 1898, I found a pair breeding in the edge of a swampy bush lot. The nest contained two eggs that were destroyed for some reason — probably because I disturbed the sitting female. — CLARENCE FREEDOM STONE, *Branchport, N. Y.*

*Auk*, XVI, July, 1899, p. 285.

*Notes on the birds of Madison County, New York,  
with especial reference to Embury's recent list.*

30. *Icteria virens*. CHAT. — Not listed. Mr. Miller has taken a single specimen at Peterboro.

*By William R. Maxon.*      *Auk*, XX, July, 1903, p. 266.

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

37. *Icteria virens*.

"*First plumage.* Remiges, rectrices, etc., as in the adult. Head, superiorly and laterally, uniform grayish-olive, with a barely appreciable whitish supraloral line and orbital ring, and *without black markings*. Whole throat pale ash-gray (almost white on the chin), stained laterally and anteriorly with yellow; entire breast gamboge-yellow, obscured with olivaceous-gray across the jugulum (probably entirely gray at first, the yellow feathers being probably the beginning of the first moult). Abdomen white; flanks and crissum pale buff. In my collection from Mt. Carmel, Ill., July 19, 1875." — R. R.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1878. p. 60.

# THE AUK:

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SEQUENCE OF PLUMAGES; ILLUSTRATED BY THE  
MYRTLE WARBLER (*DENDROICA CORONATA*)  
AND THE YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT  
(*ICTERIA VIRENS*).

BY JONATHAN DWIGHT JR., M. D.

*Plate III.*

THE young birds figured on the accompanying plate illustrate a plumage that is common, not only to all North American Warblers, but to many other species of birds at the time of leaving the nest. It is but one stage in a series, and by tracing the development of successive plumages in the two species before us, we shall be able to grasp the idea of sequence, which underlies a true understanding of the relation plumages bear to each other.

There is a downy stage antecedent to the one figured. The young of the Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) while in the nest are scantily clothed with downy filaments, the fore-runners of true feathers, which grow from definite parts of the feather tracts. These are rapidly displaced by new feathers, to the tips of which they adhere for some time. This second stage, generally known as the 'first' or 'nestling' plumage, in the case of the Myrtle Warbler, happens to bear a strong superficial resemblance to that of the adult Pine Finch (*Spinus pinus*), which is heightened by the spray of evergreen on which the artist has posed the bird. The plumage of all young birds is, however, always weak

and soft at this stage, even the flight-feathers being less compactly rounded out terminally and deficient in pigment as compared with those of adults.

Within a few weeks, the plumage of the third stage, commonly known as the 'autumnal,' has replaced that of the second, which is in most species quite evanescent. The flight-feathers, however, are retained throughout the following winter and summer and are not renewed until the first postnuptial molt occurs, about a year after the birds have left the nest. The primaries, their upper coverts, the secondaries (usually the tertiaries), the alulæ, and the rectrices are the only feathers retained of the 'first' plumage. The body feathers assumed resemble closely in structure and pattern those of the adult at the same season, and are worn during the winter until the end of March or April, when together with the wing-coverts they are renewed by a prenuptial molt, young and old becoming indistinguishable except by the worn, dingy wings and tail of the young bird.

The young bird has now reached a fourth stage, the plumage of the first breeding season, which in the Myrtle Warbler is made up of parts of three, — the flight-feathers, matured in the second stage, a few of the third stage, retained chiefly on the posterior parts of the body, and the new feathers assumed in spring.

At the end of the breeding season, the first nuptial, a complete postnuptial molt occurs which renders old and young indistinguishable, adults entering a fifth stage separable from the third chiefly by the blacker wings and tail, and brighter wing edgings, a difference that holds good for a twelvemonth, although it is not infallible and cannot always be made out. The fifth stage of plumage is worn until the following spring when the prenuptial molt occurs, involving only the body plumage and wing-coverts, as in the young bird.

A sixth stage, the adult breeding plumage, is the last one recognizable in the Myrtle Warbler, although it is well to bear in mind that a seventh, corresponding to winter plumage, and an eighth, corresponding to summer plumage, occurs, and so on until the death of the bird. Fortunately this species passes both winter and summer mostly within the borders of the United States so that I have been able to examine large numbers of specimens

taken every month in the year. The sequence of plumages is beautifully shown, and it is time it should be more widely recognized as a concrete fact.

The Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) is in some respects apparently unique among our Warblers. There is the first or downy stage, and the second, which is the one figured on the plate. The yellow spots represent the coming feathers of the third stage, the autumnal or winter plumage. Unlike the Myrtle Warbler, a complete molt, judging from the few specimens available, takes place, including the wings and the tail. No other Warbler of nearly forty species examined exhibits this peculiarity, although it is common enough in other families. This plumage assumed is practically indistinguishable from that of the adult, the black of the lores and suborbital region being as a rule less intense. It is worn without molt throughout the following winter and summer.

Consequently the fourth stage of plumage is simply the third plus a certain amount of inconspicuous wear.

The fifth stage follows the postnuptial molt, and the sixth is the fifth modified by molt. All of these stages may not be traced in all individuals, for the depth of the black of the lores is a variable and slender character, but it will be observed that the sequence of plumages obtains even when we cannot distinguish with certainty one from another.

The lesson to be learned from these two species is a valuable one, and many other species teach the same thing, namely, that plumages succeed each other in definite sequence, those of young birds overlapping in their development. To number the different stages consecutively has obvious disadvantages, and the terms now in common use are inexact, so that some new scheme should be devised to meet the exigencies of the case. As a solution of the difficulty, I offer the following names which conform, so far as is compatible with clearness, to every-day usage already sanctioned.

1. *Natal Down.* This is a first stage, no matter whether the covering of the young bird in the nest be downy or hairy, scanty or abundant, evanescent or persistent.

2. *Juvenal Plumage.* The name I propose as a substitute for 'first' or 'nestling' plumage is definite and suggestive of the

stage it represents, and may not be confused with the 'first winter' and the 'first nuptial' plumages, which seem to be fitting antitheses to 'adult winter' and 'adult nuptial.' At all events, *juvenal* marks a second stage, which is ill suited by the adjective 'first.' It is doffed by a postjuvenal molt.

3. *First Winter Plumage.* In this third stage feathers of adult structure are first assumed, the wings and tail of the juvenal plumage being retained in the majority of our species. It is the 'autumnal' plumage.

4. *First Nuptial Plumage.* This is the breeding dress of young or 'immature' birds and it may be merely the first winter plumage plus wear, or it may be wholly or in part acquired by a prenuptial molt which very rarely includes the flight-feathers, although the tail may be renewed when the wings are not.

5. *Adult (or Second) Winter Plumage.* A complete molt always follows the breeding season and distinctions between young and old birds usually vanish at this time, unless they have done so earlier. In most species, the differences between first and second (adult) winter plumages are inconsiderable, in some the plumage differs widely and several molts occur before the young bird acquires full adult dress.

6. *Adult (or Second) Nuptial Plumage.* This may be acquired every year in exactly the same way as the first nuptial, but there are some species that, after one prenuptial molt, undergo only the postnuptial in succeeding years.

There are many species in which these six plumages or stages may be clearly recognized,—usually less than six can be made out, and very rarely more. 'Third Winter' and 'Third Nuptial' will indicate later plumages, but 'adult' may naturally be substituted as soon as differences between young and old are obliterated.

My scheme, with proper modifications for certain groups of birds, will apply to all North American species, and, with a clear understanding of the process of molt, will explain the puzzling combinations of plumage that are as yet unsolved.

*Icteria virens*. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.

Regularly up to the middle of July, and sometimes through the third or even fourth week of the month, this species continues in song. Imperfect songs may sometimes be heard in early August, but rarely later, although my record extends to August 14. Dates of fairly perfect final songs range between July 15 and August 1. After the cessation of song the singular *chat* note of the species may yet be heard about the shrubbery which it still closely haunts; but even this seems to be discontinued before its departure.

This eccentric bird is perhaps our only species which regularly sings at night. Where Chats abound, it is a common experience to hear at one time several singing with full vigor at most untimely hours; and from my window I have listened to such serenades on many successive nights. They sing both when the moon is bright and when the night is clear and dark; their odd notes interrupting the midnight stillness with peculiar effect. Thus have I heard them into the small hours.

Auk, I, July, 1884. p. 216.

Dec. 1888.]

AND OO

Nesting of the Yellow-breasted Chat  
in 1888 near Raleigh, N. C.

BY C. S. BRIMLEY.

In this locality these birds nest chiefly in thickets and briar patches, and less often in scattering bushes on hillsides. The nest is composed of grass or weed stems, the bottom being almost entirely of dead leaves, and the whole is lined with fine grass, never with horsehair or feathers.

The nest is placed in a suitable bush, briar patch or bunch of reeds from two to six feet from the ground, the usual height being about three feet. The birds commenced to lay May 16th and the last nest was found June 25, containing a full set of 4. Early in the season the set is almost invariably four, later on sets of three begin to appear, and late in June, three are more often found than four. Considering the abundance of the species, comparatively few nests are found; a briar patch containing several pairs often fail to reveal a single nest to the most diligent search. The nests that are found are always in such easy places to find that one wonders at not finding many more.

O. & O. XIII, Dec. 1888 p. 189

A Philadelphia Collection of Eggs of  
the Mniotiltidae.

*Icteria virens*. Yellow-breasted Chat. One set of five, fifty-three sets of four, nine sets of three. Total: sixty-three sets.

O. & O. XIII, Dec. 1888 p. 178

Nests in which Cowbird's  
eggs have been found  
C. C. Poling

16. *Icteria virens*. Yellow-breasted Chat.  
A set of eggs collected in Missouri on May  
20 contained two eggs of the Cowbird.

O. & O. XIV, Sept. 1889 p. 134

No. Eggs in Set - C. S. Brimley

Yellow-breasted Chat. Standard set, four.  
Variation, three to four. Per cent of variation:  
33 1-3.

O. & O. 15, Oct. 1890, p. 146

STRANGE NESTING HABITS OF A PAIR OF CHATS.— I think the following extracts from a letter lately received from Mr. C. W. Beckham of Washington, D. C., may be of interest to the readers of the Bulletin. The locality is near Ilchester, Howard Co., Maryland.

"About the first week in May, 1876, a pair of Chats [*Icteria virens*] began building in a Wren box attached to one of the pillars of the south piazza which partly fronts towards a small ravine. They seemed to be very little disturbed by the occasional presence of members of the family, but appeared to be considerably annoyed by the belligerent attentions of a pair of Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon*) who had taken up their quarters in another box on an adjacent pillar, and who were inclined to be very quarrelsome with their strange neighbors.

"They — the Chats — had been at work nearly a week, when a violent wind-storm blew the box down and thus rudely upset their domestic plans. The box was replaced in hopes that they would try it again, but their perseverance was not equal to the occasion, and they never returned. In view of the generally shy and secretive nature of the Chat, this incident of abnormal nidification seems rather curious."—CHARLES F. BATCHELDER, Cambridge, Mass. Bull. N. O. C. 6, April, 1881, p. 115

good a collecting ground as it did when I first took up my oölogical studies as a boy.

Spring came all too soon, and on the evening of May 29th, 1885, I left home, and after a ride across country of ten miles, put up for the night at a modest country Inn (a relic of Colonial times) to be near my ground by daylight next morning. Years had failed to make any changes in the place I sought. <sup>Probably to yourself, an elevated</sup> plateau, at part of which could reach a small mountain as it went over Delaware and with ancient and the civilization's axe of for Chats on I had ever species had common four-x sets of d on this act which I take up w appear whitenss e spot of the point surements h measure l .87x.63> arance of lashes or the mark- w Lark's.

we concluded to search for their eggs before sitting down to our evening's work of preparing specimens. We had gone but a few rods, when I saw, under a fallen rock, what I supposed in the dim light of its retreat to be an Anker, but on reaching under the stone and removing the bird I was greatly surprised to find I held the first and only live Petrel I had ever seen. On showing my prize to one of the Italian eggers, he exclaimed, "Why, that's the first *Scoialou* I've seen in two years."

The egg which the bird was so carefully guarding as to allow herself to be taken, was but slightly incubated. It is dull creamy white in color, with a circle of reddish dottings so fine as to be almost indistinct, around the large end—which is somewhat flattened like the large end of an acorn. It measures 1.18x.94 inches, and was laid on bare rock, in a natural hollow formed by a large rock falling in such a way as to leave an irregular cavity two or more feet in diameter by nine or ten inches in its greatest height. The egg was to one side of the centre of the cavity, and about fifteen inches from the entrance, which was too small to admit my arm until a number of stones were removed. On examining the cavity more thoroughly the next day, I found,

The entire end and top are covered with these, which are confluent. The remainder of the egg is here and there sparingly spotted with minute spots of same color.

Set No. 3.—Four eggs, having an underground of highly polished white, similar to Yellow-shafted Flicker's eggs, and the entire portion of three eggs is covered with a heavy marbled pattern in red, much like the mottling of Nighthawk's eggs. The remaining egg is very peculiar, and looks out of place in this set, having a ring of reddish brown spots around the *smallest* end, the remaining portion being the shining white. Measurements average .92x.66.

Set No. 4.—Four eggs shaped like peanuts, faintly marked all over with the usual colored spot. The lilac shell marks show plainly. This set contained one egg of Cowbird. They measure 1.03x.58, 1.01x.56, 1.01x.55 and 1.00x.55.

Set No. 5.—Contained four eggs, the most beautiful of my day's work. Ground color a pure dead white and ringed around the larger end in innumerable spots of the brightest red. If an artist should take in hand a set of eggs of Purple Martin, and very delicately effect a wreath around the larger end, they would look as much like the set I am trying to describe as anything I can think of. Fully four-fifths of each egg is pure white, unspotted. These specimens measure .94x.66, .93x.66, .92x.65 and .92x.62.

Set No. 6.—Four eggs and Cowbird's egg. This set looks much like a set of Spurred Towhee, which were collected and presented to me by my friend W. Otto Emerson, of California. The entire egg is covered with dull markings. Sizes: .96x.72, .92x.70, .94x.69 and .90x.68.

Set No. 7.—Four eggs pure white. The lilac and reddish markings are about equally numerous. They are dispersed over the entire surface. Very glistening and pretty. One egg of the Cowbird was found in this nest. Average measurement: .90x.68. The eggs look like some sets of Golden-crowned Thrush, (*Sturnus auricapillus*).

Set No. 8.—Four remarkably small, palely marked specimens. Nearly round, .71x.68. These little eggs have the appearance of having been dipped in an acid which would remove the color of the marking. They might be termed albinos.

I am convinced that four eggs is the usual nest complement, as this is the most I found. The eggs at this date was mostly fresh, although I saw one nest with young birds, and several with one, two, or three eggs, which I did not disturb. No nest was more than five feet from the ground, and all were built in bramble or low thickets, except one which was on a small tree. Several were within one foot of the ground, and on an average every fourth nest contained the egg of the Cowbird.

The normal nest is long and thick; very compact, and I think it quite a pretty bird home. It is composed of leaves, strips of wild grape vine bark, and dead grass. One beautiful specimen I found was made entirely of dead beach leaves, with a plentiful lining of straw.

Probably few collectors in this locality have any idea of the excessive abundance of this bird in suitable places; and the fact that I found such a large number of nests in one day, and all within a radius of a mile, proves that the Chat loves an upland solitude, and that he finds much pleasure in the society of his relatives.

### A Day in Chatville.

BY HARRY G. PARKER, CHESTER, PA.

The eggs of the Yellow-breasted Chat, (*Icteria virens*), have always appeared to my eye to be among the most beautiful laid by any species breeding in our midst. Apart from the beauty of a normal specimen, they are possessed of difference so varied, both in size and markings, that few oölogists are aware of, unless they have had the privilege of examining a large number of sets at one time. Now as this species was only represented in my cabinet by one set, and that collected by a friend, the idea of taking a number of sets came up before my mind on just such a stormy, wintry night as the thoughts of the naturalist love to dwell on the memory of green fields and babbling brooks. Seated before a cosy grate fire in my study, in slippers, with additional comfort lent by the indulgence of a pipe, I bid defiance to the elements without, and projected a trip for the coming season to a spot not more than twenty miles from Philadelphia, which is admirably adapted by nature to the nidification of this bird. I sat long, and mused and wondered whether the place I had in view would prove as

good a collecting ground as it did when I first took up my oölogical studies as a boy.

Spring came all too soon, and on the evening of May 29th, 1885, I left home, and after a ride across country of ten miles, put up for the night at a modest country Inn (a relic of Colonial times) to be near my ground by daylight next morning. Years had failed to make any changes in the place I sought. Picture to yourself an elevated plateau, miles in extent, and barren for the most part of trees, thickly covered as far as the eye could reach with viny and briery thickets, laurel, and a small species of evergreen. Here and there a mountain stream relieved the unbroken level as it went tumbling on its noisy way to meet the river Delaware some miles below. All this bordered on the north by heavy forest, presenting an upland with southern exposure. The hundreds of ancient and mossed stumps of trees alone bespoke civilization and the deadly work of the woodman's axe of some former day. A veritable haven for Chats it proved, and between 5 a. m. and noon I had taken twenty-two sets, besides some other species not to be recorded here. By 4 p. m. I had completed a day's collecting with an additional fourteen sets, making a total of thirty-six sets of Chats alone.

Of the total number of sets collected on this day, I have selected eight from my cabinet which show nearly every phase of variation. I take up the sets for description as they now appear before me.

Set No. 1.—Four eggs of crystalline whiteness covered uniformly all over with minute spot of reddish brown, no spot exceeding in size the point of a pin, no lilac shell markings. Measurements .88x.68, .88x.66, .86x.64 and .85x.65.

Set No. 2.—Consists of four eggs which measure respectively .90x.68, 90x.67, .88x.68 and .87x.63. Underground white. The general appearance of this set is ringed, formed of large splashes or blotches of two shades of red, similar to the markings on a heavily colored set of Meadow Lark's. The entire end and top are covered with these, which are confluent. The remainder of the egg is here and there sparingly spotted with minute spots of same color.

Set No. 3.—Four eggs, having an underground of highly polished white, similar to Yellow-shafted Flicker's eggs, and the entire portion of three eggs is covered with a heavy marbled pattern in red, much like the mottling of Nighthawk's eggs. The remaining egg is very peculiar, and looks out of place in this set, having a ring of reddish brown spots around the *smallest* end, the remaining portion being the shining white. Measurements average .92x.66.

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