

species, as well as the distinctive color differences mentioned above, need make no mistake.

Mr. Richardson stated that he had caught as many as eighteen pigeons in a net at one time in the early days near Ottawa, and that the pigeons would soon clean up a field of peas, alighting along the rows and rapidly moving along, making short flights over each others' heads as soon as the spot was cleared of peas.

R. M. ANDERSON.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW AN ADDITION TO THE CANADIAN FAUNA.—One does not often have an opportunity of making an addition to the list of birds found in Canada, but when such an accomplishment is sought, the best place for the focus of effort is Point Pelee, where there is the maximum of chance to get southern stragglers. In the Bird Book, at Camp Coues, the headquarters of ornithological enthusiasm at the Point, there is a list of the species not yet recorded there, but regarded as among the immediate probabilities. In that list along with Pine Grosbeak, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Chickadee, and others, stood the name of Bachman's Sparrow, but on April 16, 1917, that name was erased. On that day, as the writer in company with Prof. J. W. Crow, was examining a lot of shrubbery at the north end of Mr. Langell's large orchard, our ears were met with a peculiar trilling song divided into two periods, the first at a lower pitch and much more rapidly delivered, than the second. The difference in pitch was one-fifth, and the speed of the first phrase was almost exactly twice that of the second. Neither of us recognized the song, and we were delighted on shooting it to find that we had the first Bachman's Sparrow to be recorded for Canada. The bird was a male and measured as follows: length 154 mm., wing 65, tail 63, tarsus 18. Records for northern Ohio are scanty, but there is a recent one for a locality opposite Point Pelee, recorded, I believe, in the Wilson Bulletin. The specimen is number 4140 in my collection.

W. E. SAUNDERS.

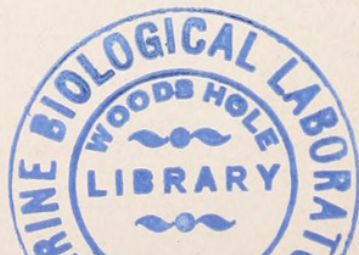
THE STATUS OF BEWICK'S WREN IN ONTARIO. The record of occurrence of this species in Ontario is brief and the number of observers concerned still briefer. It has been regarded as strictly casual, and the following statement of our knowledge of it

is made with the hope of changing the present estimate.

The first specimen was taken by the writer on Dec. 12, 1908, about 25 miles west of London. The day was fairly mild, with a little snow on the ground, and the wren was found in the roots of a fallen tree, busily hunting for food. Recognizing it as an unusually dark wren, it was collected with the hope of gaining some knowledge about the family. When it proved to be a Bewick's a new species for Canada, interest was increased, but further search was unproductive until on April 24, 1909, one was heard singing, and was collected, from a tree immediately beside the "shack" at Point Pelee. The addition of another specimen on the 26th, from a different part of the Point, was the first real hint received that the bird was anything but a casual. Then our knowledge stood still for years. Stories came to our ears of large dark wrens, seen near the edge of the marsh in the winter and there was always the surmise that one of these might be taken, and prove to be a Bewick's, thereby supporting the idea that it was a regular inhabitant of the province. That hope has not been realized, and the identity of those so-called marsh wrens, wintering at the Point, is still a mystery. But on April 1, 1917, another Bewick's Wren was seen and heard to sing within 25 yards of the house. The next day, Sunday, he was still around, and on Monday came the great event in the world of wrens, when we saw and heard no less than five birds, and felt that we would not be too destructive in taking one of them, which we did.

Our experience at the Point is that every so often (a phrase that succinctly expresses the exactness of our knowledge in the matter) there comes a day when some species has its *day* of migration. We have seen the days of Bluebirds, Blue Jays, male Marsh Hawks, Black Poll Warblers, etc., and, here, at last, seemed to be the day of Bewick's Wren. Five in one day of a species of which all the previous years had disclosed but three, was truly a great number, and tells in terms not to be denied, that Bewick's is a regular resident of Ontario, whose exact domicile in summer is yet to be disclosed. Time alone will tell if this theory is correct, and it may easily prove that the instance is one of varying abundance, so often exhibited in the case of species studied at or near their northern limit.

W. E. SAUNDERS.





Saunders, William Edwin. 1919. "Bachman's Sparrow an Addition to the Canadian Fauna." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 33(6), 118–118.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.337921>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/17583>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.337921>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/337921>

Holding Institution

MBLWHOI Library

Sponsored by

MBLWHOI Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.