

The writer has seen no specimens of *T. Canadensis* from Lorette, but if, as seems possible, it there occurs associated with *Plectoceras Halli*, then the horizon of both of these species at that locality may be that of the Trenton rather than that of the Black River limestone.

In Canada it would seem that *Trocholites Canadensis* is characteristic of the Trenton limestone, perhaps of its lower beds, and considerably below the Utica; *T. ammonius* of the Utica shale; and *T. planorbiformis* of the Hudson River or Lorraine formation, above the Utica.

Ottawa, March 15th, 1904.

MOLLUSCA NEW TO THE CANADIAN FAUNA.

While staying at Oxley, Ontario, in the fall of 1903, Miss Mary E. Walker, of Buffalo, N.Y., made a collection of the mollusks found there, which was submitted to me for examination. Among them were two species, which, so far as I have been able to ascertain, have not hitherto been recorded from Canada.

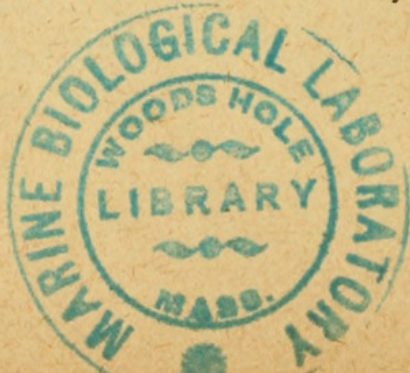
1st.—*VALLONIA PARVULA*, Sterki.

This is a well marked species, easily distinguished from *V. costata* by its smaller size, more depressed form and wider umbilicus. Originally described from the Western States, it was found by myself several years ago at Put-in-Bay. Its discovery at Oxley extends its range still further north. The occurrence of this species at two localities so near together, and so far away from its normal range, with no known record of its having been found in the intervening region, is a curious fact in distribution, and one not easily accounted for.

2nd.—*PISIDIUM DANIELSI*, Sterki.

This is a new species described by Dr. Sterki in the "Nautilus" for August, 1903, (Vol. xvii, p. 42) from specimens collected in Steuben County, Indiana. Its discovery at Oxley is the first record of its occurrence at any other than the type locality.

BRYANT WALKER.



WARBLER SONGS AND NOTES.

By REV. G. EIFRIG.

Now that the crows, the vanguard of the annual bird migration from the south, have arrived, and two or three bluebirds even have coyly appeared in a sort of tentative way, to see whether winter would not soon disappear in earnest, we may reasonably expect to soon see larger divisions of the great bird-army. In April the sinister companies and battalions of the blackbirds often make themselves apparent even to the casual observer, the purple and rusty grackles with their discordant gurgling, and the fine redwinged blackbirds with their martial *congarée*. Besides these some larger birds, which however do not make themselves so apparent, will then come, some herons and hawks; also the little trusty phœbe with the plaintive note from which its name is derived. And then comes glorious May, which brings surprises and joys each day in the animal and vegetable kingdoms. Then huge waves of warblers, finches, thrushes, vireos or greenlets, plovers, etc., arrive daily. Then is the time for every one who can, naturalist, professional, amateur or otherwise, lovers of nature and the beauties of it, to arm themselves with an opera glass and lens, and note book, and see, observe, behold and drink in as it were the beauties and lessons and mysteries that nature holds up to our raptured vision. Some of the finest and most interesting objects that we then can and ought to become acquainted with are the birds. Watch them with or without glass, try to impress their chief characteristics on your mind, and if you do not know the bird and are a beginner in bird-craft, look up at home your Bird Neighbors, or some other popular book on birds, and see what the bird you did not know was. And the more you learn thus by your own exertion, which is at the same time pleasure, also healthful to a degree, the more you want to learn and find out; the love of it will grow on you.

After knowing the birds by their color, size, etc., a person should try to attain some proficiency in recognizing them by their songs and other notes. Of course, if all the birds would announce their names as plainly as the chickadee, or the phœbe or bobolink, this would be comparatively easy. However, this is not the case,

and therefore, it takes more or less patient observation to be able to tell them by their notes.

Some of our prettiest, but at the same time smallest and most elusive birds are the warblers. On some days the open woods are full of them. They are abundant and pretty, yet most people never see them, even if they are at home in their orchards, because they are so small and restless, always moving about. Most of them are so beautifully and conspicuously marked, that if a person once knows when and where to look for them he can readily become acquainted with them. But it takes much patience and stretching and twisting of necks to accomplish it. Therefore, I soon after undertaking it came to the conclusion that it would be advantageous to be able to recognize a warbler by its song or rather lisping—for that is in many cases all, despite their name as a class—that their musical efforts amount to. And to aid nature and bird lovers to learn to know and identify warblers is the *raison d'être* of this article.

When I heard a warbler song I did not know, I followed up its owner until I positively identified him, then I tried what syllables would reproduce the impression best, and these I jotted down in my note book on the spot. These first impressions sometimes have to be corrected later on, often the first is as good as the last. This I would advise everybody to do who would learn to know the birds by their song.

The following list is loosely arranged according to the time of appearance of the different species at Ottawa, and to the degree of frequency in which they are generally seen.

BLACK AND WHITE CREEPING WARBLER, *Mniotilta varia*. To be seen in open woods of deciduous trees, creeping around limbs and trunk of trees, not high up; color as implied by name. Song insignificant, a repetition of the syllable *sweet*. One I heard sang: *Switta, switta, switt*. One writer gives its song, *Weachy, weachy, twee, twee, twee, tweel*.

YELLOW WARBLER, *Dendroica aestiva*. This common warbler is entirely yellow, the male having narrow reddish stripes on the lower side, which are apparent only at a near view. This is a bird not so much of the woods as of the open, frequenting trees in fields, along fences and even in cities, where it also nests. Its

song is, *Sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet, sweeter, sweeter*, or *Sweet, sweet, sweetie*, or *Weeche, chee, chee, churwee*, as Prof. Lynds Jones gives it.

REDSTART, *Setophaga ruticilla*. This pretty feathered bit of energy and restlessness can be easily recognized by its conspicuous salmon red with black, which it always displays fully. Its note is not so distinctive; I could never formulate it in syllables to give satisfaction; it is much like that of the preceding two species. Mr. Chapman gives it *Ching, ching, chee, ser-wee, swee, swee-e-e*.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER, *Dendroica pensylvanica*. The adults of this species are easily told by the chestnut stripe on sides and bright yellow crown. They frequent second growth deciduous woods; they nest low. Song: *Peary, peary, peeé-a*, rather subdued. Miss Roberts gives it, *Tsee, tsee, tsee, happy to meet you*.

OVENBIRD, *Seiurus aurocapillus*. Abundant in open woods, *walking* on the ground looking for ants. Its common song with which it greets intruders in its domain is exactly rendered by Mr. Burrough's transcription: teacher, *teacher*, TEACHER, TEACHER, **TEACHER**. Some however, seem to put the accent on the second syllable, or at least many hear it that way, some like *te cheé*, etc.

MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT, *Geothlypis trichas*. This cheerful and nimble little sprite can easily be identified by its markings as well as by its song. It is bright yellow on breast and head, except a black band on cheeks, ear coverts and forehead. Its song plainly is: *Witchety, witchety, witchety*; accent on first syllable. It frequents bushes and prefers swampy or at least wet situations.

YELLOW-RUMP WARBLER, MYRTLE WARBLER, *Dendroica coronata*. Has four yellow patches on crown, at shoulders and on rump, otherwise bluish-gray, streaked with black. Not much given to song; one author gives it, *T'whip twéeter, twéeter*.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, *Dendroica virens*. Its colors are indicated by the name, yellow on under side. Its song, if once heard well, can not easily be forgotten. It is: *Dee-dee, dée, ah-di*. It is loud, ringing, cheerful. Prof. Jones has heard it this way, *Pe te, che-o te*.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, *Dendroica caerulescens*. Where the preceding one is found, this one may also be looked for. They frequent bushy, open woods and are mostly seen in the branches of medium sized trees. Its best song is ; *Dill-dill dill-dree*, rapid, ascending. When busy feeding or later in summer it abbreviates this into, *Re-dereé-di*, *Tsree tsree tsree*, or even a shrill, whistle-like, *Trree*.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER, *Dendroica maculosa*. This handsome black and yellow warbler has quite a repertoire of lays and ditties, which all however do not amount to much. Its best performance is a loud, impulsive, *Iree dereé di*. At other times it sings like the Chestnut-sided warbler: *Peary, peary pee a*; then again monotonously: *T'see, tsee, tsee*, etc., or it utters a rather melodious disyllable *Tsee-wit, tsee-wit*.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER, *Dendroica blackburniæ*. This winged gem of black, white and deep orange sings little and then very poorly, a faint, hesitating, *Dee dee dee*, in one pitch of tone, or even only : *De de de*.

PINE WARBLER, *Dendroica vigorsii*. True to its name, this warbler lives only in pine-woods or in single pines amongst deciduous trees. Its color is dull olive and the song exactly like that of the Chipping Sparrow ; it cannot well be reproduced by syllables.

CANADIAN WARBLER, *Wilsonia canadensis*. This warbler is of a somewhat pensive and retiring disposition. It prefers swampy and bushy places. The breast is bright yellow, with a neck-lace of black spots, back bluish gray. The only song I have heard sounds like a faint imitation of the Maryland Yellow throat, a subdued, halting : *Witchety, witchety*. When alarmed in their quiet haunts they utter a sharp *tsip* or *tsink*.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER, *Dendroica striata*. Black and white, with a black crown, larger than most warblers, Its song is a very insignificant dry : *De de de*, uttered very leisurely.

NASHVILLE WARBLER. *Helminthophila ruficapilla*. A bright yellow warbler, bluish gray on top. The song is variable. Some give it : *Wee-see, wee-see, wit-a-wit-wit* ; others : *Ke-tse, ke-tse, ke-tse, chip-ee-chip-ee-chip*. Rather loud and lively.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER. *Dendroica castanea*. A migrant only here. Song just like that of the redstart.

TENNESSEE WARBLER. *Helminthophila peregrina*. Song like that of the chipping sparrow, except first two syllables, which are *twip* instead of *chip*.

CAPE MAY WARBLER. *Dendroica tigrina*. Rather rare migrant and rather quiet too. Song something like black and white creeper: *awit, awit, awit, awit, awit*, as Prof. Butler puts it.

PARULA WARBLER, Blue Yellow-back Warbler. *Compsothlypis americana*. "Parula's song is hardly wiry, but it is fine and delicate—more like hair than wire. The more delicate singers seem to say, *Pe-tse, pe-tse, pe see see*, or: *cher-re-re, cher-re-re, cher-re-re*."

PALM WARBLER, *Dendroica palmarum*. Song: *Tsee, tsee, tsee, tsee*, with a distinct swell. (Prof. Jones).

YELLOW PALM WARBLER. *Dendroica palm hypochrysea*. Like preceding.

MOURNING WARBLER. *Geothlypis philadelphia*. Song: *Tee te-o, te-o, te-o, we-se*, or: *True, true, true, true too*.

WILSON'S WARBLER. *Wilsonia pusilla*. Song like yellow warbler or redstart.

Ottawa, March 28, 1904.

HUGE PUFF-BALLS.—Mr. J. Smith of the Topographical Surveys Branch, found a very remarkable puff-ball (*Lycoperdon gigantum*), about a mile from Breckenbridge Station, on the Pontiac and Pacific Railway, on the 25th of August, 1903. It measured 56 inches horizontal girth, and 44 inches vertical girth, a perfect specimen with skin as white and smooth as a piece of kid. There were five other large ones within a few feet of it, some of them decayed, others not fully grown. Mr. Smith has seen large puff-balls at the same place for several years back. Such specimens are not rare about Ottawa, but it is believed that that found by Mr. Smith is the largest ever seen in this district.

JOHN MACOUN.





Eifrig, Charles William Gustav. 1904. "Warbler Songs and Notes." *The Ottawa naturalist* 18(1), 18–23.

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