

tree situated among other low trees and shrubs, and is within six or seven feet of the main driveway through the Arboretum. Across the driveway at this point is a spring and the beginnings of a small brook. In the structure of the nest are interwoven brown leaves with upturned stems, after the fashion of the Blue-winged Warblers as stated in Mr. Chapman's 'Handbook of the Birds of Eastern North America.'

A number of interesting circumstances are to be noted: first, the female has blackish areas on the throat and cheeks, shaped like those on a Golden-wing, but has also a still blacker, narrow line extending through the eye; second, a pair of Golden-winged Warblers has been known to breed in the Arboretum, in the immediate vicinity of the present nest, for a number of years; third, this year the Golden-wings seem to be absent.

Of course the most intense interest centers in the expected young, and it is to be fervently hoped that so accident will befall to prevent the successful hatching of the eggs and rearing of the young birds.—HELEN GRANGER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Ten Birds New to the Avifauna of Kansas.—Through the kindness of my friend Dr. R. Matthews of Wichita, Kansas, I have received for the Museum of the University of Kansas a mounted adult male specimen of the Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*). This specimen was shot ten miles south of Wichita in 1906 by Mr. T. H. Griffith.

Dr. Matthews has also presented to the University Museum a specimen of the Red-breasted Merganser (*Merganser serrator*), which was shot in November, 1906, by Mr. Dan Breese on his lake near Colwich, Sedgwick Co., Kansas. This species was included in the early editions of my Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas on the authority of Professor S. F. Baird, but was omitted from the fifth edition, which contained only those species which were personally known to me as occurring in Kansas.

I desire also to note the capture on the Kansas–Colorado line in the spring of 1905, by Mr. Edward R. Warren, of the eight following species new to the Kansas list: The Scaled Partridge (*Callipepla squamata*); the Spurred Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus megalonyx*); the Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*); Swainson's Vireo (*Vireo gilvus swainsoni*); Virginia's Warbler (*Helminthophila virginiae*); Macgillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis macgillivrayi*); the Sage Thrasher (*Oroscoptes montanus*); and the Dwarf Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla aonalaschkæ*).

The above ten species, together with the seven species previously reported to 'The Auk,' in addition to the 342 species enumerated in the fifth edition of my Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas, make a total of 359 species whose actual capture in Kansas has been verified by me.—J. H. SNOW, *University of Kansas, Lawrence.*

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 Lyme, 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. Boutcher, 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.*

Many Eyes are Better than One Pair.—Ornithologists from all over the United States and Canada are sending each year to the Bureau of Biological Survey their observations on the arrival of the birds. Some of these reports are merely incidental notes taken while performing the daily routine tasks; others represent a large amount of time and frequent special trips taken to fields and woods. The question continually arises, How nearly do the better grade of these reports represent the actual date of the earliest arrivals? If more time was spent in the fields by the observer, or if several persons worked carefully and completely a limited locality, how much earlier would be the dates of arrival? To find an answer to these questions was the problem before me the past spring. I began my excursions with the opening of the season, and as spring advanced, my trips became more frequent until during the three weeks of the height of migration they were almost daily. They were extended in all directions around Washington and were planned to cover the various kinds of country. As a result I saw more different species of birds than during any previous spring, including several of the rarest birds of this region.

The Audubon Society of the District of Columbia is in a flourishing condition. It holds several field meetings each year; the members have had access to a good selection of skins of local species and many of the members have become well acquainted with the avifauna of the District. In addition to the regular field days of the Society, this spring several of the more expert bird observers made many extra trips into the woods, and some of the most enthusiastic spent a large part of their time in hunting for new arrivals. These all reported to me the new birds they saw



Wright, Horace Winslow. 1907. "A Kentucky Warbler near Boston, Massachusetts." *The Auk* 24, 344–346. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070396>.

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