

winged Warbler, and Prothonotary Warbler. All of this is juxtaposed with all of the typically northern species which seldom occur in southern Ontario.

With a respectable total of 252 species having been recorded in an area that has had little systematic ornithological coverage and in which there are few active birders, the time was ripe for upgrading Peruniak's 1969 and 1971 list, which contained only 107 species. Unfortunately, such a book as this can never be kept up to date; on the very day that this review was written, I learned of the

appearance of the 253rd species (Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch). While definitely a western vagrant, it was not among my four predictions. Elder has done an excellent job of contributing to the ornithological literature of Ontario. At the same time, he has managed, with the artistic assistance of Gisela Ewald, to produce an attractive and reasonably priced book that will appeal to a broad readership. He has also generously donated all of the proceeds from the first printing to Friends of Quetico Park.

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Photo Quiz

by
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Our quiz bird is quite a small passerine judging its size in comparison to the twigs and leaves adjacent. It also has a fairly finely proportioned bill tapering to a comparatively fine tip. Few of our small birds combine densely streaked underparts and a slender, fine-tipped bill. Such a combination eliminates all the blackbirds and finches leaving only the *Parulinae* or wood-warblers. Again, using the same combination, we can quickly sift through the warblers bringing the range of possibilities down to about five species. Black-and-white photography has the advantage of forcing us to concentrate on pattern, contrast and shape rather than colour - a good thing in honing identification skills. The contrast is not great in this bird and this, in combination with the withering, dessicated leaves, indicates that we're dealing with one of those dreaded "confusing fall warblers", the stock-in-trade of bird guides.

All the potential species belong to that large genus of (at least in our province) northern forest warblers, the *Dendroicas*. I suppose a case could be made for a first basic Townsend's Warbler, a vagrant to Ontario, but the underpart streaking is too extensive, extending beyond the legs, and the auriculars are dark but not as contrasty as in Townsend's which, in addition, always has two distinct wing bars. Palm Warbler has streaked underparts, although again not so extensive, and a lighter rump like the photo bird, but it has much duller wings with vague lighter bars, less noticeable auriculars, its undertail would not appear so bright, and it is overall a slimmer bird than this one. Fall (basic) Blackpoll is certainly streaked but there are so many

differences between it and our bird that I hesitate to mention it as a possibility. These include (in Blackpoll) the light coloured legs, the presence of two distinct wing bars, the lack of contrasting auriculars and rump seen in the subject and so on. Magnolia has a contrasting light rump, even more than our bird, and in alternate (breeding) plumage the male has extensive white wing coverts, while in fall all sexes and ages have two distinct white wing bars and the underpart streaks are not so long but are broader and blotchier. Again the head area lacks the pattern of our bird.

Probably the most difficult bird to distinguish from our bird would be a particularly dull first basic Yellow-rumped Warbler. However, in this species, the underpart streaking would be less extensive and the stripes broader. The throat would stand out more in contrast with the remainder of the underparts, the rump more with the upper tail and back, and the head-nape-back area would be concolour. Once again, there would be two definite, if perhaps dull, wing bars.

The most compelling feature of the bird is the white slash created by the mostly white greater and median upper wing coverts, a diagnostic feature of male **Cape May Warbler** in basic plumage. In fact, it's a pity that, for this quiz, we were not presented with a first basic female Cape May which lacks this white wedge and can be very dull indeed. In that case, a feature it shares with our bird, namely the light sides of the neck extending up to the nape area is diagnostic and, together with the bold but incisive underpart streaks, will

clinch the identification. Incidentally, the upper mandible of Cape May Warbler often is a little more down-curved throughout its length than on this bird (which was photographed by Jim Flynn).

Editors' Note:

Henceforth, our quiz bird photograph and its solution will appear in the same issue.

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PUBLICATION NOTICES

A Birder's Guide to the Sault Ste. Marie Border Area. 1995. By *Edward Czerwinski*. Available from the Sault Naturalists of Ontario and Michigan, Box 21035, 292 Northern Avenue East, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6B 6H3. \$6.75 (incl. postage and handling).

This guide describes 16 of the best birding locations in the Sault Ste. Marie area. It contains maps and directions to 10 sites in Ontario and 6 sites in nearby Michigan. Recent bird observations from each location enhance the text. Some of the local highlights include Gyrfalcon, Harlequin Duck, Great Gray Owl, Snowy Owl, and Northern Hawk Owl. *Ontario Birds* will publish a full review of this new guide in an upcoming issue.

Artificial Nest Structures for Ospreys: A Construction Manual. By *Peter J. Ewins*. Canadian Wildlife Service Report CW66-134/1-1994E. Available from the Canadian Wildlife Service, 25 St. Clair Ave. East, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1M2. Free.

This report contains brief background information on the nesting site preferences of Ospreys, and then provides considerable detail on numerous designs for nesting platforms that can be erected to encourage the nesting of these birds. Photographs and/or illustrations, measurements, construction tips, and examples of existing structures are provided for each design. There are also suggestions on who to contact to pursue a nest platform project, or to find out more about Ospreys.