

The Cape May Warbler in Eastern Massachusetts.— In view of the extreme rarity of the Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) in eastern Massachusetts, their occurrence in unusual numbers during the past autumn in Lexington, Mass., seems worthy of note.

Between Sept. 9 and 14, 1914, I met nine Cape Mays in four widely separated parts of the town,— three on the 9th, five on the 13th, and one on the 14th. Three of the birds were about my house in the town centre,— two in a maple, and one in a mountain ash tree. Three other birds frequented a red cedar pasture where I watched them for an hour. They kept close together, generally in the same tree, and passed repeatedly over a beat which included two or three acres. We met another individual on the border of a piece of woodland, and another in an isolated dead oak tree.

The birds showed a remarkable range of plumage; some, old males evidently, were almost as brilliantly marked with yellow and orange as in spring, others, birds of the year no doubt, were pale grey, streaked above and below with brown, and lacked all yellow except on the rump. The Cape Mays accompanied a heavy flight of migrants, composed chiefly of Bay-breasted and Magnolia Warblers.

Mr. William Brewster kindly sends me a record of three more Cape May Warblers which he saw in the nearby town of Concord, Mass. His dates extend materially the limits of the flight.

“ August 31, ♀ in red cedar in berry pasture. *Very tame.*

“ September 12, ♀ in oaks and larches. *Very tame.*

“ September 30, ♀ spent several minutes in bush directly in front of our dining room window through which I viewed her at a distance of not over five feet. She was accompanied by three Black-polls.”

Mr. Walter Faxon, who saw two of the Lexington birds, had previously met the Cape May Warbler but three times in this vicinity during twenty-eight years of constant observation.

Mr. William Brewster (*Birds of the Cambridge Region* 1906, pp. 329, 331) summarizing all the instances which his notes supply of the bird's occurrence in the Cambridge Region, says,— “ It will be noticed . . . that during twenty-four — or two-thirds — of the total thirty-six years which the records cover, the beautiful bird was not noted at all, and that during eleven out of twelve years where it was observed only a single individual was seen each season. These facts appear to me to warrant the conclusion that the species is really one of the very rarest of the Warblers which visit us with any degree of regularity.”

In his summary, which includes the records of many observers, he mentions but a single occurrence in this region in autumn.

From the evidence of Mr. Faxon's and Mr. Brewster's experience the flight of Cape May Warblers during the past autumn must be considered unprecedented.— WINSOR M. TYLER, M. D., *Lexington, Mass.*

The Records of the Tennessee and Cape May Warblers in Southwestern Maine.— Up to the summer of 1914 the Tennessee Warbler

(*Vermivora peregrina*) seems to have eluded the few observers who have looked for it in southwestern Maine. There is a bare mention, in a migration list published by the 'Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society,'¹ of its occurrence at Westbrook on May 30, 1902; and Mr. Arthur H. Norton is given as the authority for this. But Mr. Norton tells me that the record was made without his knowledge, through a typographical or editorial error, and that he has never seen the bird in the vicinity of Portland.

A Tennessee Warbler, apparently a male, came into my garden, with many other little migrants, on August 30, 1914, and, after giving for a long time only inconclusive evidence of his identity, flew to the lower branches of an old apple tree, amongst which I was standing, and displayed his specific characteristics at very close quarters. Constantly moving about, but unhurried and seemingly quite free from fear, he was several times within three feet of me on a level with my eyes, offering me in a good light a perfect opportunity for studying him, whilst he pecked at leaves and twigs, made futile little sallies a-wing in the attempt to snap up insects and voiced his feelings in subdued call-notes. His plumage was beautifully smooth, and he was very plainly recognizable.

Late in the afternoon of September 6, 1914, a Tennessee Warbler appeared in the same old apple tree. The flutterings of a moth which he had caught absorbed his attention, and he permitted me to approach him as near as I chose. I scrutinized him carefully, until he was chased away by a Myrtle Warbler,—long enough to note that he was indistinguishable in appearance from my visitor of August 30; and he may, of course, have been the same bird.

The writer obtained on Cape Elizabeth, August 21, 1876, the only specimens of the Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) which have thus far been taken in the vicinity of Portland, and there has since been no announcement to his knowledge, of other examples seen. Perhaps it is safe to assume that the species is a regular migrant; but for the present more data seem desirable in support of this hypothesis.

The Cape May Warbler passed at least four times through some of the gardens at the West End of Portland during September, 1914, and on these occasions the birds were so tame and leisurely that close inspection of them was easy. On the 3rd I detected one in a troop of Warblers. On the 10th one remained about my house the greater part of the day, alone, several times visiting a piazza roof, in the gutter of which rain water was standing, and at times foraging on the open lawn. Two came together on the 18th and with other Warblers, including the Parula, the Myrtle and the Black-throated Green, bathed long and fully in the spray of a sprinkler placed so as to play upon an apple tree about four feet high. They permitted themselves to be showered in the tree and also descended to a little pool under it where they splashed about vigorously. On the 21st I found

¹ Vol. VI, p. 79.

a solitary bird at the edge of a group of native spruce and hemlock saplings, near one corner of my garden.

This garden is a recent inclosure, and most of the trees and shrubs in it are young. One is disposed to believe that otherwise it would sooner have harbored examples of both of the warblers which form the subject of the present note.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine*.

Cape May and Tennessee Warblers in Philadelphia.—In 'Cassinia' for 1913 (p. 36) I recorded these two species in a small yard 20 by 40 feet in the rear of my home in the thickly built up section of West Philadelphia. A Tennessee Warbler on September 12, an adult and two young Cape Mays on September 21, and two young on September 30. During the autumn of 1914, they were still more frequently noted; a Tennessee on October 1, and two or three Cape Mays on September 14, 24, 25, October 12 and 20. The yard contains rose bushes and a patch of native shrubbery as well as a small tree. The birds spent most of their time in the rose bushes picking off the aphides and allowed me to approach to within a few feet of them. Numerous records of the Cape Mays have been made at a number of nearby localities, but these, well within the city proper seem particularly interesting.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia*.

San Lucas Verdin in Arizona.—In the October number of 'The Auk' (Vol. XXXI, p. 543) is a record of the San Lucas Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps lamprocephalus*) taken by Mr. H. Wright at Mecca, Cal., March 19, 1911.

Recently I received a typical specimen of this little known species (Mus. H. K. C., No. 18003) which was taken 20 years previously, and bearing the original label of the collector, Mr. F. T. Pember: "collected at Gila Bend, Ariz., April 18, 1891, ♂ L. 4.30, Ex. 6.64, W. 2., T. 1.90 inches."

Gila Bend is a small place in southwestern Arizona, elevation 1000 ft. It is about 90 miles north of the Mexican line and 100 miles east of the Colorado River.

This bird is even smaller than the California specimen, and can instantly be recognized upon comparison with true *Auriparis flaviceps*.—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Ill.*

Bluegray Gnatcatcher nesting in Wisconsin.—On May 31, 1914, in company with Mr. Normann DeWitt Betts, I found a pair of Gnatcatchers (*Poliophtila cærulea cærulea*) nesting at Lake Waubesa, Wisc. This is probably close to the northern breeding limit for the interior of the state.—A. W. SCHORGER, *Madison, Wisc.*

Robin's Nests.—Last spring, when Robins were beginning to build nests, a farm laborer in Champaign Co., central Illinois, removed an old nest from the crotch of an apple tree, and place it upon the tongue of a binder in a shed, near the farm residence. Although a year old, weather-