

**Recent Record of Bachman's Warbler, *Vermivora bachmanii*, from Gulf Coast of Mississippi.**—During the course of a survey of eastern equine encephalomyelitis at Ship Island, approximately 16 miles offshore near Biloxi, Mississippi, the necessity for the collection of a sample of the bird life occupying the forested part of the island became apparent. On the morning of February 28, 1949, the writer was proceeding along one of the peculiar, tree-covered, low sand ridges which are a typical feature of the terrain of the eastern part of the island. A number of warblers were feeding in the upper level of the scrubby, gnarled live-oaks which occupy the backbone of this ridge. An obscurely marked and unfamiliar warbler attracted attention; the bird was quite wary and refused to allow close approach. After some difficulty, this individual was collected. It was suspected at this time that the bird was a Bachman's Warbler. A skin of this female was prepared by William W. Griffin. Dr. Friedmann of the United States National Museum has examined the skin and identified it as *Vermivora bachmanii*. As a routine investigative procedure, a thin-film blood smear was made from the bird at the time of collection. This smear, upon subsequent microscopic examination, failed to reveal the presence of blood parasites.

The record here reported is unusual in that this species, considered to be fairly common in restricted localities around 1900, has since so declined in numbers that Peterson ('Birds Over America,' Dodd, Mead & Co., 1948: 182) considers it, in recent years, to have "faded like a ghost." The last reported specimen known by the author was taken in 1941 on nearby Deer Island by Thomas D. Burleigh ('The Bird Life of the Gulf Coast Region of Mississippi,' Occ. Papers Mus. Zool., La. State Univ., No. 20: 440, 1944).—GEORGE W. SCIPLE, 100 Terrace Drive N. E., Atlanta 5, Georgia.

**Winter Record of a Cape May Warbler, *Dendroica tigrina*, at Pimisi Bay, Ontario.**—On November 23, 1949, a Cape May Warbler in fall plumage appeared at my feeding station. A full description of the bird together with a drawing was sent to Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne, Dr. Harrison F. Lewis, Mrs. Doris Huestis Speirs, and Mr. James L. Baillie, all of whom confirmed my identification. The bird remained in the locality four days when it was apparently killed by a Northern Shrike, *Lanius borealis*. During this time the weather was unusually cold, the lowest temperature registered was 9° below zero Fahrenheit, and there were 10 inches of snow on the ground. The bird was in excellent condition upon arrival and appeared surprisingly little affected by the cold; it travelled with a flock of Black-capped Chickadees, *Parus atricapillus*. Pimisi Bay is located about 20 miles north of the 46th north latitude. Two other winter records of this species are mentioned by Dr. Frank M. Chapman ('Handbook Birds Eastern North America,' D. Appleton-Century Co., New York, 1940: 457)—in the Bronx region, December 16, about 500 miles south of Pimisi Bay, and one seen by E. T. Keane and H. M. Halliday at Weston, Ontario, December 3, 1943, about 250 miles to the south.—LOUISE DE KIRILINE LAWRENCE, Rutherglen, Ontario.

**The Name "Prairie Warbler."**—This name has been objected to as not descriptive of the habitat of the bird, but not enough allowance has been made for diversity in meaning of the word prairie. Wilson who christened the bird says, "I first discovered it in that singular tract . . . in Kentucky, commonly called the Barrens" (Amer. Orn., 3: 87, 1811).

Such areas are characterized by a scrubby growth, particularly of oaks, and in fact usually are called "oak barrens." They may have been termed prairies also in Wilson's time for that word has other applications than the present dominating one

in reference to the vast open grasslands of the mid-continent. Areas designated as prairies range from great plains to openings in woodland, stream-side meadows, the coastal marshes of Louisiana, and pools with only low or submerged growths in cypress swamps as at Okefenokee, Georgia. There are trembling prairies, walking prairies, rolling prairies, and flat prairies, indeed gamuts are run in use of the term with respect to moisture, physiography, and vegetation. Hence argument about applicability of the name "Prairie Warbler" to *Dendroica discolor* tends to become academic. The difficulty of finding a practical solution is illustrated by the names suggested as substitutes, which include Bush, Hillside, Pasture, and Wildwood Warbler. None of these seems especially appropriate to me, for I have observed the bird in southern Indiana and in Maryland and Virginia near the District of Columbia almost exclusively in scrub pines, *Pinus virginiana*, 15 to 25 feet in height. In fact, seeing a rather open growth of such trees in the proper season was a stimulus to go look for this bird, and the probable result would be hearing its distinctive scale-climbing song before seeing the songster. Scrub-pine Warbler would be a fitting name for the species there, but my friend of olden days, A. W. Butler, writing of the Florida form (Auk, 48: 438, 1931), said "To me it is the Mangrove Warbler." As it appears hopeless to get a name of this type that will be appropriate over the general range of the species, for familiarity of the term alone, we may as well rest content with "Prairie Warbler."—W. L. McAREE, *Chicago, Illinois*.

**Display of Oven-birds, *Seiurus aurocapillus*.**—The following observation of the mating activities of two Oven-birds was made while conducting a census of breeding birds in the Elk Grove Forest Preserve in Cook County, Illinois, on May 30, 1949. The birds were in plain view and I watched them through 8-power glasses at a distance of 15 or 20 feet. I finally broke up the affair when I moved on.

One of the birds put on a lengthy display for the other which was perched about six feet from the ground in an ironwood tree. The displaying bird chose a dead branch on a tree some few feet in front of the other. Its foot-work reminded me of the "kneading" of the claws of a contented cat, only the action caused it to move along the branch. Its tail was tilted up and its wings were drooped and slightly outspread; the tip of each primary feather was separate and distinct. The elevated position of the tail revealed the anal region. The feathers on the underparts of the bird are usually whitish, but there appeared under the tail two pencil-lines of gray which converged at about a 35° angle about a quarter of an inch above the anus. The point of convergence and the anus were connected by two more gray lines arranged in an obovate shape.

I was able to make these notes carefully, as the bird for which the display was being made took no interest. I believe it was a sick bird as it looked "dumpy" and sat on its perch with the tip of its beak opening and closing about a sixteenth of an inch with each breath. Whenever it hopped to another perch, startled by a movement on my part, the displaying bird chose a new branch in front of it to make the display. I finally frightened the sick-looking bird away entirely, and the other attacked it in mid-air. It clung to it after it alighted on a branch and pecked it vigorously on the rump. The attacked bird did not fight back but sat there gasping as before, and the other desisted from its display.—F. J. FREEMAN, *Itasca, Ill.*

**Northern Yellow-throat, *Geothlypis trichas*, Caught in Spider Web.**—On September 4, 1949, Tom Foster and I saw this unusual sight. The warbler was making frantic efforts to get free. When we approached the bird its efforts increased and it became disentangled. It flew to a nearby bush where it spent some time