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THE DIARY OF A NEW ENGLAND ORNITHOLOGIST

AN APPRECIATION.

(Read before the Wilson Ornithological Club at Chicago,
December 28, 1916.)

W. F. HENNINGER.

A few years ago a letter came to my desk, asking me whether I would like to consider buying a small collection of birds. Upon my answer that I would have to have the exact data I heard no more until this fall. Then I received the answer that the data were all given and thus the collection passed into my hands together with the book, that was to contain these data. Naturally when unpacking the specimens and checking them off I saw that the collection had but little *financial* value. A specimen of *Pheugopedius maculipectus* attracted my attention only because it had belonged to the collection of John Cassin and a specimen of *Wilsonia citrina* because it originally belonged to Dr. E. A. Mearns. Running over the Warblers in the collection I came across the name on the checklist: "Whitethroated Warbler." Knowing that the Cerulean is sometimes called by that name I looked for this species, but what was my surprise when the specimen found proved to be a *Vermivora leucobronchialis* of a very early date, July 3, 1875. I then paid close attention to those species of which there seemed to be only one specimen at hand. The very next one was a Cerulean and then a Kentucky Warbler, both from the New England States. To my memory came

a short note in the Auk, *the Bird Journal* of the Atlantic Coast, written about nine years ago and when I turned to the page I saw what had fallen into my hands. Consequently I turned to the book which had accompanied the skins and there found accurately recorded the ornithological life history of a man, who furnished many other men in the New England States in the past with splendid records of New England birds, and whose records are worthy to be retold or revealed. The collection, or what was left of it — 302 skins — thus proved to be of considerable *historical* value and it gives me great pleasure to show the most interesting ones of them to the members of the Wilson Club today, as I read to them from the records of the past, from the diary of Dr. Erwin I. Shores, the Ornithologist of Suffield, Connecticut.

The diary begins with statements of his childhood days back in 1862 and relates struggles with parental objections to the use of a gun, when he was only eight years old, the wrestling with questions of identification of birds, all things with which the most of us are familiar from our own reminiscences. Tenney's Manual, and in 1871, when the family lived in Haverhill, Mass., Johnson's Natural History, as also Maynard's Naturalist's Guide served him as his ornithological literature. There at Haverhill he also learned the art of taxidermy. Two good records from this time are still preserved in the diary, viz, the shooting of a Black-backed three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) in October, 1871, at Bradford, along the river, but he says of this specimen: "it was so lousy, that I only kept his head and wing." In November of the same year a friend gave him a pair of little Auks (*Alle alle*) which were shot on Kenoza lake, which he mounted and still had at a very late date. In August, 1872, the family moved to Suffield, Conn., and in September of the same year he entered Brown University and there became acquainted with Professor J. W. P. Jenks. Through him he became still more interested in birds and received permission from his parents to accompany the Professor on a winter trip to Florida. The trip I wish to give in his own words. He writes as follows:

“Our party consisted of Professor Jenks, Fred Jenks and myself. On the way to our real starting point Fred and I shot several birds, but kept very few. Saw a few gulls and ducks on the way to Savannah, but lost them. Saw plenty of ducks after we passed Cape Hatteras. Our next shooting was at Sand Point on the Indian river. There we got several birds. Among them I remember a mockingbird that Fred got and a Fish Hawk and a Broad-winged Hawk that I got. At Sebastian Creek I got a Pigeon Hawk and eighteen other birds and Fred got a pair of Carolina Doves and twenty birds. On the way down Indian River we had shot at a number of birds. At Ft. Capron we met Mr. Ober and Mr. Van Buskirck and they went with us to the interior. While at Ft. Capron went gunning several times and shot a bag full each time, but turned nearly all over to Professor Jenks, keeping for myself only the following, all of which were obtained along the river's bank North of Ft. Capron, but within five miles of it. This list is as follows:

Ft. Capron, Florida, February 11, 1874.

1. Bahama Honey Creeper (*Coereba bahamensis*) ♂.—(Aside of this record are written the sad words, “lost in mail 1878.” Sad, I say, because I want the Club to remember that this is by far the northermost record of this species in the United States, all others being from the Florida Keys, principally Indian Key. This record must be all of 200 miles farther north and thus the credit for the northermost record of this species must go to this youthful ornithologist, then 19 years of age, Dr. Shores.)

2. Cardinal Redbird, one ♂.

February 12.

3. Yellow-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) ♂.

4. Nonpareil (*Passerina ciris*) ♀.

5. Stone Snipe (*Totanus melanoleucus*) ♂.

6. Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphicus*) ♂.

7. Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) ♂.

(Numbers 3, 4 and 5 are now in my collection.—W. F. H.).

My first shot at Ft. Capron killed a Fish Crow and a Turkey Buzzard. From that place we started for Okeechobee and breaking down on the way we left Professor and Fred behind.

Killdeers, Meadowlarks, Quail, Deer, Raccoons, Fox Sq., Wild Turkeys, a Wildcat, Alligators and Snakes were common all the way to the Kissimee River. Besides these I killed numerous smaller birds, but had no time to skin them. At Cowboy camp, on February 19th, I killed a pair of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in the morning, but had no time to skin them then, as the camp was moved that day, so put them in the boat and at night when we reached camp they were spoiled. At Ft. Bassanger there were plenty of birds and game and though I shot much it went into our stomachs and I preserved no skins. On the way down the river Snake birds, Herons, Gallinules were abundant, but nearly all I shot were "gators." On the island in Okeechobee there were thousands of nests of Herons and a few of Roseate Spoonbills. When we came the Herons left and the crows came and destroyed their eggs. In the lake I was taken with fever and ague.—" On the rest of the trip he could not do much, mentioning only, that he again meets Professor Jenks and Fred, to whom he turned over the box of eggs he had collected, and that at a Pelican rookery at the Sebastian River he killed six Brown Pelicans with one shot, but could only keep their plumes as he was too sick to prepare any specimens. The effects of this trip made itself felt in two ways. First it kept him in poor health for some time, secondly he became determined to have a collection of his own and started out to do so most vigorously. Several articles from his pen appeared in later years in regard to the camp life in Florida and some of his experiences there, but that was all he ever wrote about it and he never published anything over his own name in ornithological literature. The records from 1874 in his diary's shooting list up to 1880 in the fall are very complete except the last few years when he went to school, most likely some medical college. In the fall of 1880 he moved to West Bridgewater in eastern Massachusetts. There he lived till the summer of 1885, moving to Hampton, Virginia. The entries in the diary at the last named place are of no peculiar or particular value except in one instance to be mentioned later on. His life's work as an Orni-

thologist was in Suffield, Conn. and West Bridgewater, Mass. In giving the work for this period I have considered it best to take up the various families of North American birds and point out anything that may be of interest. Suffield, West Suffield, and Enfield, Conn., are located in that part of Connecticut where the Connecticut River enters the state from Massachusetts, and his work sometimes carried him across the line into Massachusetts, besides he made several trips to Rhode Island. This naturally makes his list of water and shorebirds very small.

RECORDS.

Order *Pygopodes*.

The record for the Dovekie (*Alle alle*) has already been given. The only other one worth mentioning is from West Bridgewater, Mass., on November 1, 1882, two ♀♀ juveniles, of *Gavia stellata*, shot in Plymouth, Mass., on October 28, 1882, and presented to him in the flesh by Chas. Thayer.

Order *Longipennes*.

Most of the records for the birds of this order are from Hampton, Va., and are for birds we naturally would expect to meet there. Of the Massachusetts records there is one of interest, a specimen of the Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), a ♀ juvenile, shot at Plymouth, Mass., on October 22, 1884, and presented to him in the flesh by F. Mitchell.

Order *Anseres*.

Not many records for ducks and geese are given. He only got one specimen of the Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) on October 26, 1880, at West Bridgewater, Mass., and states that its crop had two large acorns and its gizzard was full of cracked acorns, small stones and sand. His record for the Blue-winged Teal is April 21, 1876, at Suffield, and occasionally he mentions finding the Black Duck. The other specimens were obtained mostly in the Boston markets and taken in that neighborhood.

Order *Herodiones*.

He mentions the Great Blue Heron as fairly common, the Bittern as not nearly so common, the Green Heron as common, the following stomach contents being noted: One ♂ shot August 6, 1879, had a frog and a mass of crickets and grasshoppers in his stomach, one ♀ on August 11, 1879, had a mass of water-beetles in her stomach. Of the Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax n. naevius*),

however, he only took one specimen—a ♀, in the juvenile plumage on July 24, 1875, in the Big Brook woods, thus showing that this species must be rather rare in that region.

Order *Paludicolae*.

He has several records for the Sora, but only one specimen actually taken August 9, 1875, at Suffield, Conn., a ♂ (now in coll. W. F. H.). Otherwise only the Coot is mentioned of this Order.

Order *Limicolae*.

The Woodcock and Wilson's Snipe are mentioned, but only one specimen of each was in his collection (now in coll. W. F. H.). The Least and Spotted Sandpiper as well as the Bartramian Sandpiper were common in those days and specimens of all these are in the collection. August 4, 1875, was a red letter day for him. He went to Saalsbury Beach to visit some friends, borrowed a gun and rowed over to Plum Island at the mouth of the Merrimac River in Massachusetts and took a specimen each of the Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*), of the Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*), of the Red-backed Sandpiper (*Pelidna alpina sakalina*), of the Pectoral Sandpiper (*Pisobia maculata*), all of which are now in my collection, and a bunch of Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, which they had for supper. The Solitary Sandpiper is fairly common according to his notes, but the Killdeer rather rare, one record being given a pair taken May 22, 1880, at Suffield, Conn. This last record must be added to those given by Sage and Bishop.

Order *Gallinae*.

The Quail (*Colinus virginianus*) is mentioned by him and the Ruffed Grouse; the specimens of Spruce Grouse he had he obtained from Northern Vermont.

Order *Columbae*.

He has a number of records for the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) June 19, 1874, a specimen shot in the front yard of the home farm, June 16, 1875, a pair seen, August 30, 1879, a ♀ shot had been feeding on blackberries and elderberries, and at the Southwick Ponds in Massachusetts, in July, 1880, he finds several on July 16, and one on July 20. After that there are no more records.

Order *Raptores*.

Among the Hawks there are no exceptional records, but some of the observations and stomach records are worthy of note. Thus he mentions a specimen of *Buteo borealis* feeding on *Lepus sylvaticus* on February 28, 1882, at West Bridgewater, Mass., the stomach contents of a *Buteo lineatus* on August 24, 1875, at Suffield,

Conn., as a large light green worm with light and reddish bands across it with a long horn, black on top and green below, a dozen or more large locusts and a small green snake, a small frog and four black ground beetles. A winter record of *Accipiter velox* is December 30, 1878. The contents of stomach of an *Accipiter velox* taken September 12, 1877, were the bill of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, while the stomachs of all Sparrow Hawks contained mice. Twice does he mention how Hawks have darted down and taken away the bird he had just killed, in each case it being Cooper's Hawk, and on one of these occasions he managed to kill the thief. The Marsh Hawk he finds but once, and of other Hawks only the Bald Eagle is met with, especially at the Southwick Ponds, Mass., in July and August, 1880.

Among the Owls, he notes the stomach contents of a Screech Owl taken July 21, 1879, as having dorrbugs (whatever that may be) and parts of a Chipmunk, while all others had mice. On May 25, 1877, he shot a pair of Great Horned Owls with both of the young. Stomach contents: the ♀ had skunk, the ♂ a Red Squirrel, the young each a mouse and the skunk's fur. His best record, however, is a Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula caparoch*) obtained in the Boston markets in December, 1877, shot on Salem Beach, having a mouse in its stomach. As there are only fourteen records for this owl in Massachusetts it constitutes the fifteenth one, or rather the tenth one, in order. The Long-eared and Short-eared Owls are also mentioned by him.

Orders *Coccyges* and *Alcyones*.

Both species of cuckoos are mentioned, though the Blackbilled one is the more common of the two. The Kingfisher is mentioned as common and several observations on his mode of fishing are made, that he dives down quite deep to catch his prey and that he breaks the backbone of the fish and swallows it doubled up.

Order *Pici*.

The record for *Picoides arcticus* has been mentioned. The Flicker, the Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers are all noted as common. His specimens of the Pileated Woodpecker came from Northern New York and Vermont. Of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) he has but one record, a ♂ taken September 9, 1874, at Rehoboth, Mass. (coll. W. F. H., No. 1395). We know today that this species is a rare breeder in the mountains of Massachusetts and his record must have been of some value in those days, since it does not seem to be established as a breeder there till in the eighties of the past century. The greatest rarity, however, is the specimen of *Centurus carolinus*, the Red-bellied Wood-

pecker, a ♀ taken July 30, 1874, at Suffield, Conn. (coll. W. F. H., No. 1394). This is the specimen mentioned by Merriam in Trans. Conn. Ac. Sci. IV, 1877, 65, and is the only indisputable specimen taken in Connecticut, as Linsley only saw one, and no one seems to know anything definite about the one killed by Dr. Crary at Hartford and the date of its capture. Dr. Shores' specimen is likewise the first one taken in New England.

Order *Macrochires*.

The Whip-poor-will, Nighthawk, Ruby-throated Hummer and Chimney Swift are all well known birds of this region. Of the latter species he has one shot July 21, 1879, at Suffield, Conn., (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1422), a ♂ that had three testicles, two of the usual size, and on the right side another from the same duct about two-thirds the size of the other, certainly an interesting specimen anatomically.

Order *Passeres*.

Family *Tyrannidae*.

Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*).—Common. Migration dates: May 12, 1876, and May 11, 1884.

Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*).—A rare bird in that region. He took only four specimens, two of which I now have, a ♂ taken September 10, 1877, and a ♀, taken May 17, 1877 (Coll. W. F. H., Nos. 1400 and 1401).

Phœbe (*Sayornis phæbe*).—Common. Migration dates: April 21, 1875; April 12, 1876; April 23, 1877; April 7, 1882; April 4, 1883; March 27, 1884. The specimen taken April 21, 1875, a ♂, had some long white worms just in front of the eye similar to those found in the Snake Bird (*Anhinga anhinga*).

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Nuttallornis borealis*).—Rare. Dr. Shores took only one specimen of this bird, a ♂, on August 5, 1874, at Suffield, Conn. (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1560). This is the first specimen ever taken in Connecticut (Sage and Bishop, Birds of Conn., p. 102).

Wood Pewee (*Myiochanes virens*).—Common summer resident.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*).—Rather rare. Mr. Shores took ten specimens of this species, and I believe the earliest records from the state, since Sage and Bishop mention only one earlier, August 21, 1876, a pair (♂ in Coll. W. F. H., No. 1562 and ♀, No. 1563); May 25, 1877, two males (one ♂ in Coll. W. F. H., No. 1564); May 17, 1877, a ♂; June 4, 1878, a ♀; August 30, 1879, a ♂; September 1, 1879, a ♂; September 4, 1879, a ♀; September 10, 1879, a ♀.

Empidonax minimus.—Common. Migration dates: May 4, 1876; May 9, 1877; May 5, 1882; May 12, 1883.

Empidonax virescens.—One specimen taken, a ♂, June 24, 1874, at Suffield, Conn. (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1551). The A. O. U. check-list credits this species with breeding casually in Connecticut and once in Massachusetts. Ridgway (Birds of North and Middle America) credits it with a breeding record at Hyde Park, Mass., 1888, but does not mention Connecticut at all, although under the bibliographical references it is mentioned from that state (Merriam, Trans. Conn. Ac. Sci. IV, 1877). Evidently Dr. Shores' record is the first one from Connecticut, and also for the New England states, and the late June date makes it possible that it bred there as it did so in later years. (Sage and Bishop, B. of C., p. 104.) Another valuable specimen.

Of the next families, the Blue Jay, the Crow, the Bobolink, the Cowbird, the Red-winged Blackbird, the Purple Grackle, the Meadowlark, the Baltimore Oriole, the Rusty Blackbird are all common birds of that region. The Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) is rare and he mostly met with but one specimen each summer, with the exception of one, and took only six specimens all told, three of which are now in my collection. One Bobolink, a ♂, shot July 28, 1876, had grasshoppers and crickets in his stomach, and on June 15, 1875, he mentions finding a Red-winged Blackbird's nest that had two entirely light blue eggs without any markings and one with one black spot only on the large end. The Horned Lark was taken only at Providence, R. I., two ♂♂, one ♀, February 3, 1875, and November 13, 1875, a ♂ at Pawtucket, R. I.

Family *Fringillidae*.

Passer domesticus.—How uncommon the English Sparrow was in those days is shown by the remark under December 23, 1875: "Was at work skinning birds, when I heard a queer song, so went out and shot these two," viz. two ♀♀ of this species. Surely different from what we experience.

Pinicola enucleator leucura.—Met with occasionally February 22, 1875, at Rehoboth, Mass., December 21, 1875, at Suffield, Conn., December 6, 1882, and January 1 and 18, 1883, at West Bridgewater, Mass., and the next winter at the same place as common all winter.

Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*).—He has four records for this species, one ♂ taken November 24, 1874, a ♂ taken December 21, 1875, its crop full of frozen apples, and two ♂♂ taken December 30, 1878. January 2, 1879, a flock seen. These records are years earlier than any given by Sage and Bishop (B. of Conn., p. 122). The Purple Finch breeds in that region and the records are numerous.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra minor*).—The only records are

Rehoboth, Mass., one male and two females on October 30, 1874, a pair being now in my collection.

Loxia leucoptera.—This rare straggler was taken on November 26, 1874, at Suffield, Conn., a male (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1480). This is a month earlier than the first record by Sage and Bishop, and hence the first one taken in Connecticut.

Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria*).—Common. On January 20, 21 and 22, 1875, he took 53 specimens. Sage and Bishop mention only one earlier occurrence, so that is the second record for the state.

Greater Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria rostrata*).—One specimen of Redpoll taken on January 20, 1875, at Suffield, Conn. I refer to this subspecies. Its measurements seem to come well within the range of this variety (length 5.70 and extent 9.10 in., wing 3.20, tail 2.25). This is three years sooner than the only record given by Sage and Bishop (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1467).

Snowflake (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).—One specimen taken, a ♂, on November 24, 1874, at Suffield, Conn. (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1413). Sage and Bishop's first record is two months later.

Of the other members of this family the Goldfinch, the Vesper, Savannah, White-throated, Tree, Chipping, Field, Song, Fox, and Swamp Sparrows, the Slate-colored Junco, the Towhee, the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and the Indigo Bunting are all common.

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*).—It sounds peculiar that this species is only met with once, a fine male in full plumage, taken in Suffield, Conn., November 24, 1874 (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1433). It evidently must be a very rare visitor in that region. Dr. Shores' record is the first specimen taken in Connecticut. (S. and B., B. of C., p. 122).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Passerherbulus caudacutus*).—There are only two records, one from Rhode Island, where the species is common, at Silver Springs, October 23, 1875, a male (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1581), and one female from Hampton, Va., October 22, 1886 (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1586), where the species is also common.

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum australis*).—While this species breeds in Connecticut it seemed to be almost absent in that region, since there are only two records, a ♂ juvenile, taken July 6, 1874, at Enfield, Conn. (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1459) and May 29, 1878, a male taken at Suffield, Conn.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*).—A rare bird in this region. Only four records, a male taken at Silver Springs, R. I., October 23, 1875; a female taken at Suffield, Conn., May 20, 1876 (Coll. W. F. H., No. 229), and a ♀ taken May 23, 1876, at Suffield, Conn. (Coll. W. F. H., No. 351). A recent article states that this species is rare in all New England. May 14, 1877, a ♂ taken.

Lincoln Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*).—Our fellow member, H. S. Hathaway, remarked on the rarity of this species in the "Osprey," March, 1899, p. 110, stating that only three had been taken in Rhode Island and similar conditions prevailed in Connecticut at the time when Dr. Shores worked there. The records are as follows: June 6, 1874, one taken; May 23, 1877, a male taken, "which had small straws in its mouth and acted as if it were near its nest, being very much less shy than usual" (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1476); June 2, 1877; June 23, 1877, and September 14, 1877, and May 14, 1877 (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1475); May 22, 1878, two males taken, and June 4, 1878. These records show that it bred there at the time, at least to all appearances. Mr. Shores' record of June 6, 1874, is the first record from Connecticut.

Family *Tangaridae*.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*).—This species is only known as a straggler in the New England states, but two of the very few records are furnished by Mr. Shores. A male July 21, 1876, of which he writes: "Was sitting in room reading when I happened to look out of the window and saw this bird in Miss Clark's yard. Got gun and shot out of the window." As this bird was mounted it may possibly still be in Mrs. Shores' possession, as she kept a case of mounted birds. The other record is from West Bridgewater, Mass., May 16, 1884, a male taken. Mr. Shores' record from Suffield is the first one taken in Connecticut.

The Scarlet Tanager is of course a common bird in the region of Connecticut.

Family *Hirundinidae*.

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*).—Not overly common. Migration dates: April 16, 1877; May 13, 1883.

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon lunifrons*).—Migration dates: April 21, 1876; April 25, 1877; May 11, 1884. Common.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogastra*).—Common. Migration dates: April 13, 1876; April 22, 1877; May 11, 1884.

Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*).—Common. Migration dates: April 22, 1877; April 8, 1882; April 19, 1883; March 24, 1884.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*).—Common along the river.

Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*).—Only one specimen taken, a ♀ on June 6, 1874, at Suffield, Conn. This is the specimen mentioned by Purdie in Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club II, 1877, 21, and is the first specimen recorded from Connecticut and the second one ever taken in the New England states. This species has extended its range since those days and is now a fairly common breeder in Southern Connecticut (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1453). This specimen is not mentioned by Sage and Bishop.

The Cedar Waxwing was of course a common species there, but of the Northern Shrike there are very few records, a ♂ taken November 27, 1876, in Suffield, Conn. (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1366), and a ♀ taken February 28, 1880 at Suffield, which had a mouse in its stomach, and four seen during the winter of 1883 to 1884 at West Bridgewater, Mass.

Family Vireonidae.

The Red-eyed Vireo (*V. olivacea*) is the most common, followed by the Yellow-throated (*V. flavifrons*), the White-eyed (*V. griseus*), the Blue-headed (*V. solitarius*), and the Warbling (*V. gilvus*) in regular order of abundance, but there is only one record for the Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireosylva philadelphica*), a female taken September 10, 1879, at Suffield, Conn. This is always a rare species and this record constitutes apparently the first one for Connecticut. It is now No. 1493, Coll. W. F. H. (Sage and Bish. Birds of Conn., p. 145).

Family Mniotiltidae.

Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*).—Common in this region. Migration dates: May 20, 1875; May 11, 1876; April 21, 1877; April 30, 1882; April 28, 1883; April 27, 1884. Fall dates: September 9, 1874; September 12, 1877; September 11, 1878.

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*).—Very rare. One specimen taken August 22, 1874, a male (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1611). This is the specimen mentioned by Merriam in the Trans. Conn. Acad. Sc. IV, 1877, 12, and is certainly the one mentioned by Purdie, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club II, 1877, 21. No doubt the first specimen taken in North Connecticut, and at that time the northernmost one in New England.

Vermivora pinus.—This warbler is still reported as rare in Massachusetts. Dr. Shores took only one specimen, a male, May 27, 1878, at Suffield, Conn. (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1540).

Brewster's Warbler (*Vermivora leucobronchialis*).—This rare species was once taken by Mr. Shores July 3, 1875 (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1541), a male at Suffield, Conn. Second specimen taken in Connecticut, fourth specimen ever taken—there is one from Massachusetts, 1858, and one from Massachusetts, 1870, one from Connecticut, May 25, 1875.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*).—Quite a number of records: June 17, 1875, a ♂ taken; July 7, 1876, a pair of adult and three young taken (a breeding record); August 7, 1878, two ♂♂ and one ♀ taken; August 10, 1878, two ♂♂ taken; August 14, 1878, three ♂♂♂ taken (two in Coll. W. F. H., Nos. 1503 and 1523), and June 9, 1879, a ♂ taken (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1504). Only one of these records given by Sage and Bishop.

Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora rubricapilla*).—Common. Migration dates: May 14, 1874; May 11, 1876; May 10, 1877; May 21, 1882; May 4, 1883; May 16, 1884. Fall: September 12, 1877.

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*).—Sage and Bishop give this as a rare spring and fall migrant, but they only made use of one of Dr. Shores records, and that seems to be the first one for the state, June 8, 1875, a male taken (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1524); September 3, 1877, a ♀ juvenile; September 10, 1879, a pair (♀ in Coll. W. F. H., No. 1582); a ♀ September 1, 1879; a ♀ September 7, 1877; a pair September 2, 1879; a ♂ September 4, 1879; a ♂ September 5, 1879; a pair September 8, 1878 (a ♀ in Coll. W. F. H., No. 1525). These were the specimens taken by him.

Northern Parula Warbler (*Compothlypis a. usneae*).—Common. No special records.

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*).—Sage and Bishop call this a *very* rare spring and fall migrant (B. of Conn. p. 153), but Dr. Shores took fourteen specimens, that is more than all the other Connecticut men put together, and he also took the first specimen in the state, May 28, 1875, a ♀; May 20, 1876, a ♂ (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1538); two ♀♀, May 23, 1876; a ♂, May 27, 1876; two ♂♂, September 1, 1879; a ♂, September 2, 1879 (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1539), and four ♀♀ on the same date (two in Coll. W. F. H., Nos. 1536 and 1537), and two ♂♂ on September 10, 1879. Only one of these records given by Sage and Bishop. It seems that I now have more specimens of this warbler (four) in my collection, taken in Connecticut, than any Connecticut man has at the present day.

Dendroica aestiva, *caerulescens* and *magnolia* are all common in that region.

Dendroica coronata.—Common. Two winter records given in the diary. January 2, 1879, a flock of about twenty seen, of which two ♂♂ were taken, and February 22, 1875, a ♂ taken. These records are not given in Sage's and Bishop's work and are many years prior to any winter records they do give.

Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica caerulea*).—Exceedingly rare. One ♂ taken on June 12, 1875 (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1501). He says about this occurrence: "On my way home lay down under a tree by the road waiting for a ride and I thought I saw a Warbling Vireo, so shot and got a Blue Warbler." This was at West Suffield. This is the specimen mentioned by Ridgway (Birds of North and Middle America, Vol. II, p. 571), by Brewer Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H., XIX, 1878, 303, and also by Purdie Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club II, 1877, 21. Linsley's record from 1841 does not state whether a specimen was taken or not, hence is not to be considered in this connection, but there is one earlier one from Massachusetts. Thus Dr. Shores'

specimen is the first one taken in Connecticut and the second one taken in New England.

Dendroica pensylvanica, *virens*, *Seiurus aurocapillus* and *noveboracensis*, *Setophaga ruticilla*, *Wilsonia canadensis* and *Geothlypis trichas* are all common in that region, and there are no special records.

Black-poll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*).—This is the most common warbler of all in that region, Dr. Shores taking 116 specimens in all.

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*).—Dr. Shores found this is a very rare warbler and notes only three specimens taken, May 20, 1875, a ♂, May 21, 1877, a ♂ (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1478) and a ♂ May 23, 1878 (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1477).

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*).—To the fall records given by Sage and Bishop must be added a male taken September 1, 1879 (now in Coll. W. F. H.), and one on September 10, 1879; to the summer records a male taken July 29, 1878. We find under this species the following remark, which will no doubt evoke a smile as we think of similar feelings in our life: "June 11, 1876, *Sunday*. This A. M. was sitting in my room reading, when on looking up I saw a sight that made me wish the people were not just going to meeting. Nine Blackburnian warblers in the elm! How I did want to shoot! But father said 'No,' and the people were passing thick, so I couldn't very well." Common.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica vigorsi*).—Not common, as he took only nine specimens.

Yellow Palm Warbler (*Dendroica p. hypochrysea*).—Common. Two early spring records are April 17, 1876, and April 22, 1877.

Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*).—Decidedly rare. He took only three specimens, a ♂, June 16, 1875, and two ♂♂ June 28, 1876 (one in Col. W. F. H., No. 1520).

Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosa*).—Rare. One specimen, a male, taken August 16, 1876, at Suffield, Conn., of which he says: "I shot the Kentucky Warbler in the lane by the large chestnut tree." This is the bird of which C. Hart Merriam says in a review of the birds of Connecticut, 1877. "A specimen was taken by Erwin I. Shores at Suffield, Conn., on August 16, 1876, a bird new not only to the state of Connecticut but new also to the whole avifauna of New England." It is now No. 1509, Coll. W. F. H. This record is not mentioned at all by Sage and Bishop in the Birds of Connecticut, for what reason I know not. There is just one more record for Connecticut in those early days, two for Massachusetts and two for Vermont (Auk, Vol. XXIV, 1907, p. 346).

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*).—Dr. Shores took just

five specimens, a ♀, on September 10, 1879, at Suffield (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1531), a ♀, September 28, 1880, at West Bridgewater, Mass., and three specimens on September 17, 1881, at the same place. (One in Coll. W. F. H., No. 1497.)

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*).—Rare in Connecticut. Mr. Shores took only two specimens, a male, May 29, 1879 (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1484), and a male, May 22, 1877 (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1485). These two records are not given by Sage and Bishop and should be added to their list.

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*).—A rare breeder in that section. Two taken, a male each time, May 17, 1877, and June 23, 1877 (Coll. W. F. H., Nos. 1405 and 1406).

Wilsonia pusilla.—Rather rare. Nine specimens taken. A male taken each on May 26, 1874, May 10, 11, 13 and 23, 1876, May 14, 1877, May 22, 1877, a female on August 31, 1877, and a male on September 10, 1879. Two of these are in my collection. Sage and Bishop say, "usually rather rare and most often seen in spring."

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*).—Very rare. One specimen taken, a male, on July 8, 1875, at Suffield, Conn. (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1508). Ridgway says in his *Birds of North and Middle America*, Vol. II, p. 706, of this species: "Breeding northward to Connecticut (Suffield, etc.)." Evidently basing this upon the present specimen, perhaps the first specimen taken in Connecticut. The other specimen in Dr. Shores' collection (now Coll. W. F. H., No. 1502) was taken by the late Dr. E. A. Mearns, a male in high nuptial plumage on May 21, 1878, at Highland Falls, New York, and seems to be one of the earlier records for that state.

The Titlark or Pipit is not mentioned from Connecticut. Two specimens he took at Cranston, R. I., on November 20, 1874, and several at Hampton, Va., in 1892. The Catbird he found less common than the Brown Thrasher. Of the Wrens he mentions for Connecticut only the House Wren, and from the Southwick Ponds in Massachusetts the Short-billed Marsh Wren. The Brown Creeper, the White-breasted and the Red-breasted Nuthatches he found quite often. A remark under the Chickadee (*Penthestes atricapillus*) shows what a careful observer he was. He writes under date of March 27, 1882, at West Bridgewater, Mass.: "Several times this winter have heard a note that sounded like a Wood Pewee, but yet I knew none of them could be here at such a time. Today I've stood within ten feet of a Chickadee and have seen him dilate his throat and give utterance to a sound which I should express by 'chee-bir-de.' First syllable loud and long and the next of half length and less volume, the last short and not loud enough to be heard a great distance. The whole is rather brighter and quicker

than that of the Wood Pewee, but very closely resembles it. Nothing like their very bright and quick note of 'chicadee.' At a distance the last syllable seems only a continuation of the second." The two Kinglets he found commonly.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*).—He took only one specimen, when he "took a ride down the bay just for fun," namely, a male at Silver Springs, R. I., on June 24, 1875 (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1555). There are seven records for Massachusetts of this bird, all of a later date, and seven for Connecticut. Two of these are earlier and one for the same year from Providence, R. I., all four mentioned by Purdie in Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club II, 1877, including Dr. Shores' specimen.. There are only four specimens all told from Rhode Island.

Of the *Turdidae* we find the Bluebird, the Veery, and the Hermit Thrush mentioned as common, the last one arriving as early as April 2, 1877, and leaving as late as November 1, 1882. The Olive-backed is less common and the Wood Thrush common only about every third year.

Robin (*Planesticus migratorius*).—Common. Sometimes stays all winter, as January 2, 1879. While living at Hampton, Va., January 12, 1892, we find this record in the diary: "A fine male presented by Sam L. Garrett, shot at Curratuck County, North Carolina. Curiously marked with white and black. Albinistic and melanistic mixed. Part of the breast, wings and tail alone natural color" (Coll. W. F. H., No. 1335).

And then the book becomes silent, only to be opened four years later, in 1896, stating, that, owing to his father's death and his moving from place to place, he sold his cabinet with 1,946 skins and his osteological specimens to Frank Blake Webster Company. He retained the number of 302 skins. Once more the book is opened. in 1900, and two specimens recorded as taken at Fort Caswell, N. C., where he lived after the Spanish-American war. The two specimens were a Black-bellied Plover and a Turnstone. Then he goes on to state that he might be called to the Philippines for medical service and works almost day and night to perfect his magnificent collection of seaweeds. And that ended his career as an Ornithologist and the diary. Mrs. Shores wrote me that the Doctor died at Schenectady, N. Y., on May 6, 1906, after they had lived there for about four and a half years.

I never knew this man personally, but you will agree with

me that I was able to write to Mrs. Shores: "He was not only a keen observer and a man of scientific accuracy, but also a man of great modesty — too much so perhaps — with an independent turn of mind and he had a nature that must have been noble and good." And in return came the reply: "The Doctor was all you say of him and certainly had a wonderful mind."

This man furnished many of the older New England ornithologists with his splendid records, on which in part at least they built up their fame, but he never published anything over his own signature that the wife or I know of. He was for a time an Associate Member of the A. O. U., which of course, as you all know, does not mean anything. And when he died, there were none of his old friends, so often mentioned in the diary, Jos. Ely, Fred Jenks, David Brewer and others, some of whom are no doubt living today, to speak of his work, and because he was not a member of the A. O. U. at the time of his death his work was not reviewed. A streak of luck has let this diary fall into my hands and you will agree with me that he did his work well. So I have no more interest in this appreciation but that full justice be done though even at so late a date, to one who knew the birds and loved them well, who furthered the cause of science in many ways; and if the men of New England have forgotten him and his ornithological work without a word of praise, we men of the Middle West at least will do him justice and whisper over his grave: "*Well done was thy work!*" And the old woods of Suffield will nod their consent to this appreciation of their old friend of long ago, of Dr. Erwin I. Shores!