listed for Gull Point, Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania: 4 May 1968, 29 May 1971, and 10 September 1976 (Stull *et al.* 1985). One was at Duluth, Minnesota, on 4 July 1981 (Tessen 1981). Amazingly, another individual, or possibly the same bird, appeared at Duluth from 15-20 May 1982 (Eckert 1982).

In Ontario, the only definite occurrence was of one which remained from 17-20 May 1966 at the Burlington Beach Canal (R. Curry, pers. comm.). It was discovered by the late George W. North, and was also seen by a number of local observers. Regrettably, documentation for this highly reliable sighting, which included a sketch, went missing years ago. Thus the record has never been reviewed by the Ontario Bird Records Committee, making the Windermere bird the first documented record for the province of Ontario.

(Note: This report has been submitted to the Ontario Bird Records Committee and has been accepted.)

Acknowledgements

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Palm Warblers Use Upland Cutovers as Nesting Habitat in Northwestern Ontario

by
Allan Harris

Introduction

The Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*) nests across much the boreal forest of Canada. The western race (*D.p. palmarum*) ranges from Alberta to eastern Ontario, and the eastern race (*D.p. hypochrysea*) is found from eastern Ontario to the maritimes and Newfoundland (Godfrey 1986).

In Ontario, this species is widespread in the northern part of

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the province, but occurs at low density except in parts of the Hudson Bay Lowland (Welsh 1987). Typical nesting habitat consists of open sphagnum bogs with scattered black spruce (*Picea mariana*) and tamarack (*Larix laricina*) (Peck and James 1987, Welsh 1987).

In 1989, I found evidence of Palm Warblers nesting in upland cutovers regenerating with jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*), a habitat not previously described for this species in Ontario.

Methods

In late May and early June 1989 several singing Palm Warblers were found in Langworthy and Hogarth Townships (latitude 49°5' N, longitude 90°20' W), north of Upsala, Ontario. The birds were found in cutover areas with jack pine regeneration. All were of the western race, distinguished by the grayish, rather than yellow belly (National Geographical Society 1983).

Five of these sites were revisited on 16 July 1989 when several adult birds carrying food were seen, suggesting that they were nesting in the area. The vegetation within a 10m radius of each singing bird was described and other species of singing birds noted.

Results

Timber in this area was cut in and around 1980. Cutover size often exceeds 100 ha, interspersed with stands of 60- and 80-year old jack pines (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Forest Resource Inventory maps). Regeneration of the cutover areas has been almost

Figure 1: Cutover area with jack pine regeneration in northwestern Ontario. Photo by *Gerry Racey*.

pure jack pine on the fine sandy soil.

Trees surrounding the territorial birds averaged approximately 3m in height, but ranged from 2 to 5m. At most locations, they were spaced far enough apart to walk between them without touching the branches, but were occasionally found in denser patches. The ground cover consisted of mosses (*Pleurozium schreberi* and *Polytrichum* sp.) and reindeer lichens (*Cladina* spp.) with frequent patches of bare sandy soil. Logging slash was present at most sites.

The most abundant herb species included bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), bristly sarsaparilla (*Aralia hispida*), and blue-joint grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*). Shrubs were mainly ericaceous species: Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*) and blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium* and *V. myrtilloides*), but willow (*Salix bebbiana*), pin cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*), and wild rose (*Rosa acicularis*) were also present.

Other bird species in the vicinity of the territorial Palm Warblers included Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*), Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) (each at 3 of 5 sites); Boreal Chickadee (*Parus hudsonicus*) (2 of 5 sites); Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*), Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*), Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*), Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*), and Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) (each at 1 of 5 sites).

Discussion

While *D. p. hypochrysea* appears to prefer open peatland habitat, use of dry upland habitat may be frequent in *D. p. palmarum*. Griscom (1957) reported a Palm Warbler nest in northern Michigan in "...a dry sandy Jack Pine plain in the heart of Kirtland's Warbler country...". Harrison (1984) described typical nesting habitat of the western race as "...dry plains of pines with clearings of low ground cover of blueberry, sweet fern, and similar plants...".

Palm Warblers in northwestern Ontario appear to select nesting habitat on the basis of vegetation structure, rather than species composition. Welsh (1987) stated that the important components of Palm Warbler habitat include scattered trees for song posts and open areas where the birds catch insects from the ground or from low shrubs. Young jack pine stands are structurally similar in many respects to open bogs since both habitats offer small conifers and open area with ericaceous shrub cover. It is worth noting that several other bird species found at the Palm Warbler sites, including Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Dark-eyed Junco, are also common in open peatlands in this area.

The western race of Palm Warbler probably has traditionally nested in young jack pines that regenerate following fire in

northwestern Ontario. Logging creates similar habitat that the birds are also able to exploit. The effect on Palm Warbler populations could be significant as older stands continue to be cut and forestry activities push farther north in the boreal forest.

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Additions to the Bird List of Wellington County

by

A. D. Brewer

Introduction

Wellington County, which is about 2500km^2 in size, is situated about 100km northwest of Toronto, almost mid-way between lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron, and Georgian Bay. It lies almost entirely within the watershed of the Grand River, with only two small sections outside of the Lake Erie watershed. There are a number of important wetlands in, or partially in, the county: Luther Marsh and Pike's Lake in the north, Conestoga Lake in the west, Belwood and Guelph lakes in the centre, and Puslinch Lake and Mountsberg in the south. The majority of these are the result of artificial water impoundments. Aside from actual lakes, habitats in Wellington are very varied, with several large urban areas, much

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