

OXFORD COUNTY*Norwich Tp. Mun.*

Otterville: A singing male was seen NW of Hawtreby by D. A. Sutherland (pers. comm.). Although the habitat looked suitable, I saw no birds on a visit to the site on 22 June 1987.

Tillsonburg Tp. Mun.

Tillsonburg: Two singing males were observed on the south side of Big Otter Creek in July 1988 (J. Holdsworth, pers. comm.). Two pairs were confirmed in Haldimand-Norfolk RM farther upstream at the same time.

WATERLOO RM*North Dumfries Tp. Mun.*

Sudden Tract: A singing male was observed on 16 June 1987 (T. Cheskey, pers. comm.). Unfortunately, the site was not visited again that summer. There are one or two other records for spring and fall in the Waterloo Region.

YORK RM*Vaughan Town Mun.*

Kortright Conservation Area: A singing male was noted from 26 May to mid-June 1985 by C. Ellingwood *et al.* in a maple-ash forest with raspberry canes and saplings (Atlas files).

First Breeding Record of the Lawrence's Warbler in Ontario

by

Donald S. Graham and Alan Wormington

On 1 July 1988, Alan Wormington observed an adult female Lawrence's Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera* x *V. pinus*) at the edge of a clearing in a large wooded area northwest of Vanessa, Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk (42°59'N, 80°25'W). The bird was identified as a female on the basis of its dark grey mask and throat patch and its pale dirty yellow underparts and crown. In the male

Lawrence's Warbler these parts are solid black and brighter yellow, respectively (see National Geographic Society 1983:355).

At this time the bird remained relatively close (about 10m) to the observer for a period of 5 to 10 minutes; 10X50 binoculars were used during the observation. The female became quite agitated in response to occasional "spishing", indicating the nearby presence of a

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nest or fledged young.

On 5 July 1988, Donald Graham visited the same area and observed the same Lawrence's Warbler with a second bird, which was assumed to be the adult's offspring. This fledgling had pale grey wings with no wingbars. The head and tail were also pale grey. Underneath there were pale grey areas extending along the sides of the throat, and down onto the sides of the breast. Another pale grey area was observed on the bird's belly. Otherwise the underparts were pale yellow. It appeared similar to a fledgling Blue-winged Warbler seen several hours later.

Both birds were initially seen on the edge of the same clearing where the Lawrence's Warbler had originally been found by Wormington. At this time both birds were easily visible in relatively open vegetation and carefully observed for several minutes with 10X50 binoculars at distances of 8–10m.

For the next 40 minutes, the birds were followed and observed at distances of 3–12m. During this time the birds slowly moved north about 50m, while remaining in close proximity (9m or less) to each other.

Throughout Graham's observations, the fledgling made frequent "buzzy" sounding begging calls to which the female responded by moving towards it. These begging calls sounded like those of fledgling Blue-winged Warblers. As the female approached, the fledgling's

begging calls increased in volume and its wings quivered. Several times the female moved right beside the fledgling and although feeding probably occurred, thick vegetation prevented Graham from actually observing this.

Because of the dense vegetation, Graham attempted to move closer to the birds on several occasions. As he approached, the female usually flew towards him and acted alarmed. It would chip loudly and rapidly, move closely (3m) about him and flick its tail. After several minutes it would become less conspicuous and vocal and move back towards the fledgling, which continued to make begging calls.

After observing the birds for about 40 minutes Graham returned to the clearing to make notes on their appearance and behaviour. No mate was observed, and there appeared to be only one fledgling. The next day, Graham returned to the area with Mary E. Gartshore in an attempt to mist-net and photograph the birds, but were unable to relocate them.

The Lawrence's Warbler is very rare in Ontario and elsewhere. It results from the backcrossing of a hybrid with one of the parent species, or from the mating of two hybrids (Mills 1987). Other intermediates can also arise from matings within the Golden-winged/Blue-winged Warbler complex (Gill 1980).

Peck and James (1987) do not specifically mention any Lawrence's Warbler nest having been found in

the province, and Ross James (pers. comm., 1988) knows of no breeding records. The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project yielded three possible and one probable breeding record of Lawrence's Warbler for the province (Mills 1987). Speirs (1985:688) lists only one summer record. Hence, this record appears to be the first confirmed breeding record for the province, but not unexpected in light of the widespread distribution of the parent types in southern Ontario.

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An Enigmatic Case for the Breeding of the Kentucky Warbler in Canada

by

J. D. McCracken

Introduction

Though not generally accepted as such, Canada's first report of the Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) was recorded at Ste. Foy, Quebec in 1879. In this instance, John Neilson claimed that a pair, "showing every indication of breeding", was observed daily from 2-15 July (Fleming 1937). Because the record was hundreds of kilometres north of the species' known breeding range, it was understandably later discounted by several authors. Still, Fleming (1937) defended

Neilson as being a competent observer. The Canadian status of the Kentucky Warbler (KEWA) remains somewhat enigmatic over 100 years later.

Including the handful of occurrences that were summarized by Smith and Devitt (1943) and Stirrett (1945), there are now over 230 records of the KEWA for Ontario. About 90 per cent of these were reported during spring migration, primarily along the north shores of lakes Erie and Ontario. Some unprecedented spring

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