

unmixed *first plumage* but with fully developed wings. The tail is shorter and less deeply forked than in old birds and the rectrices are worn and faded. Mr. Scott assures me that the data just quoted are in every way correct. He remembers the bird perfectly but had supposed it to be a young White-bellied Swallow which, indeed, it resembles rather closely but from which it may be at once distinguished by its much narrower tail feathers and by the lighter, grayer coloring of its head and back. It is, I believe, the second specimen which has occurred within the limits covered by our Check-List and the first that has been taken on the mainland of Florida. — WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

X **Geothlypis agilis a Possible Breeder in Northern Minnesota.** — There are points in common between the Carberry bog of Mr. Ernest E. Thompson (see Seton in 'The Auk,' April, 1884, p. 192) and one visited by the writer in the spring of 1893, near Hickory, Aitkin County, Minnesota, where several pairs were nesting, or at least had taken up their residence for the season.

With reference to the actual taking or discovery of nest and eggs of this bird, it is believed that the Manitoba record still remains unique.

Mr. Oscar B. Warren is of the opinion, however, that the Connecticut Warbler nests near Palmer, Michigan, a fledgling young being taken there by him on Aug. 10, 1894.¹

Near Hickory there are many tamarack swamps, but of the several inspected one only appeared suitably attractive for the needs of this shy bird, perhaps one of the least known of our Warblers, and so no doubt by his retiring and terrestrial habits and usually quiet ways, which render easy observation difficult. But to one quite familiar with its characteristic song or notes no such difficulty should exist, for *agilis*, as its name implies, is but seldom seen. The clean cut notes, the *Wheat! our-winter-wheat!* of this lusty songster, with the author thereof in evidence, once heard and seen will surely ever afterwards be remembered.

A mile or more south of Hickory is a typical spruce bog; it begins at the Mille Lacs post-road on the east and extends in a westerly direction possibly three-quarters of a mile, its greatest width being about one-eighth of a mile.

At the eastern end of the bog the trees are mainly of a young growth of the black spruce (*Picea mariana*) arranged in an open and park-like way and presenting a landscape unusually attractive and pleasant to look upon in the beauty of natural detail. The western extremity was largely given up to tamaracks. Many of the spruces were "grizzled with moss" (*Usnea*), and the ground beneath them covered by a dense growth of sphagnum, with here and there occasional patches of pitcher-plants.

It was here on the morning of June 21 that I first discovered my songsters, their loud and cheerful notes penetrating the then clear air,

¹ See 'The Auk', April, 1895, p. 192.

first greeting me near the eastern end of the bog, where I had left the roadway to investigate the source of some vigorous musical efforts on the part of a male Solitary Vireo whose song was then new to me. A short distance in among the spruces brought me to the apparent home of these Warblers.

Subsequent visits followed; *agilis* was as frequently in song and fully as difficult to find, for of the several heard but one was actually seen. So, too, a most careful search for the nest and eggs also proved of no avail, furnishing as it did to my mind, additional evidence of this bird's secretive ways in this its chosen breeding home.

With her network of innumerable lakes, ponds, rivers, creeks and swamps the northern part of Minnesota should furnish many such localities as this, and "in nesting time" a capital resort for the Connecticut Warbler.

With further investigation this will doubtless prove true of the pine land regions at least, and more particularly of those portions of the state falling within the limits of the Cold Temperate Subregion of Dr. Allen.

Other occupants of the bog were the ever present Peabodies, a pair or two of *Vireo solitarius*, some few specimens of the Purple Finch, and a number of high-colored males of *Dendroica blackburniae*, making in all, as it was, a most interesting gathering, and comprising with the trees and plants a high-class picture of intrinsic worth, one's admiration for which being easily sustained by the additional favored efforts of that post-graduate minstrel of our northern woods, the Hermit Thrush. Now softly, now louder, those exquisitely sweet though melancholy strains would come at times from out the shadier depths of the deeper woods and darkened thickets not so close at hand. — BENJ. T. GAULT, *Glen Ellyn, Illinois*.

Untenability of the Genus *Sylvania* Nutt. — My tacit acquiescence in our use of *Sylvania* has hitherto been simply because I had no special occasion to notice the matter, and presumed that our Committee had found the name tenable by our rules. But a glance at Nuttall's *Man.*, I, 1832, p. 290, where the name is introduced, shows that it can have no standing, being merely a new designation of *Setophaga* Sw. 1827, and therefore a strict synonym. Nuttall formally and expressly gives it as such, making it a subgenus (of *Muscicapa*) in the following terms:

"Subgenus. — SYLVANIA.* (GENUS SETOPHAGA, Swainson.)"

This is enough to kill it — say rather, the name is still-born; and why we ever undertook to resuscitate it passes my understanding. But let us assume, for a moment, that it looks alive, and see what the result will be. Nuttall puts in *Sylvania* birds of three modern genera: 1. The Redstart. 2. The Hooded Warbler, etc. 3. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. 1. The Redstart is already type of *Setophaga* Sw. 2. The Hooded Warbler, etc., are eliminated as *Wilsonia* Bp., 1838, and *Myiodioctes* Aud., 1839. 3. Leaving "by elimination" the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher as type of *Sylvania*,