

Jones on Warblers' Songs.¹ — Nearly six years ago Mr. Jones requested the members of the Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association to begin a critical study of the songs of Warblers, and the results of their observations in connection with his own notes, covering a period of fifteen years, and all available published material on the songs of these birds are brought together in this useful and suggestive paper.

Before proceeding to a detailed treatment of the song of each species Mr. Jones discusses the development of the Warblers' song-type, the diurnal and seasonal song periods, the kinds of song, and variability in song. Many Warblers possess two kinds of song, which Mr. Jones designates as Call Songs and Passion Songs. The former is the 'every day' song of the species, which we are glad to see Mr. Jones does not consider as addressed especially to the female, but as an announcement of the bird's presence, a challenge, or reply to a rival, and, to our mind, chiefly as an irrepressible expression of the intense physiological vigor of the season, when it becomes the "passion song," which in response to extreme emotion carries the singer off its feet into the air "on quivering wings to pour out its melody without pause until the inspiration has passed."

With others who have attempted to describe birds' songs, Mr. Jones appreciates the difficulty of their adequate presentation. With most Warblers, especially the Dendroicas, this is particularly true. Musical annotation is of little service; and syllabification can, at the best, give but a vague idea of the original. However, careful descriptions may help us to identify the song, after we have heard it, and Mr. Jones's paper is therefore of value to field students, who uniformly find Warblers the most difficult of our land-birds to identify.

A 'Field Key to the Spring Male' Warblers of North America concludes this excellent piece of work. — F. M. C.

Proceedings of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union.² The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union was organized at Lincoln, Nebr., on Dec. 16, 1899, with the following officers: Prof. Lawrence Bruner, President; I. S. Frostler, Vice-President, Dr. R. H. Wolcott, Recording Secretary; W. D. Hunter, Corresponding Secretary. The papers read at the first meeting are now presented in an octavo pamphlet of some forty pages and include the President's address, 'Ornithology in Nebraska,' in which

¹ The Songs of Warblers (Mniotiltidæ). By Lynde Jones, M.S., Instructor in Zoölogy, Laboratory Bulletin No. 10, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, March 20, 1900. Also issued as Wilson Bulletin No. 30. 8vo, pp. 56.

² Proceedings of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union at its First Annual meeting, Lincoln, Nebr., Dec. 6, 1899. Edited by Robt. H. Wolcott. 8vo, pp. 44, 1 pl.