

this species that has come from Point Pelee within three years.— W. E. SAUNDERS, *London, Ontario*.

Prothonotary Warbler taken on the Coast of Maine.— A number of bird skins collected between about 1867 and 1874 by the late Levi L. Thaxter and his two sons have recently come into the possession of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. Among them is a beautiful adult male Prothonotary Warbler in fresh nuptial plumage. Like many of the others it is encircled by a broad, close-fitting paper band into which, no doubt, it was slipped when freshly skinned and put away to dry, according to a practise much in vogue half a century ago and one followed rather frequently, although not invariably, by the Thaxters. This band was made to serve the place of the usual tag or label, for on it is clearly inscribed in ink, and in the handwriting of Mr. Levi L. Thaxter, the following brief record:— "Matinicus Id., Me., August, 1868."

In addition to these data there is the word "Lonys" faintly written in pencil. "Lony," it seems, was a familiar nickname applied to Dr. Roland Thaxter in his early youth and sometimes used in the possessive case to designate the birds which he himself had killed. Although he has no distinct recollection of the Prothonotary Warbler his brother John, whom he has just questioned on the subject, remembers it perfectly and is certain that it was shot on Matinicus Island. It is not less reassuring than satisfactory to have so positive a statement from such a source; for when Mr. Samuel Henshaw first called my attention to the bird I could not help suspecting, and indeed, suggesting to him, that its original paper wrapper might easily have been exchanged through accident for that of some other skin of similar size, prepared in the same way. There is, I believe, but one record besides this of the occurrence of the Prothonotary Warbler in Maine. It relates to a specimen taken by the late Mr. George A. Boardman at Calais on October 30, 1862.¹— WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Races of the Parula Warbler.— On a short trip to Seaford, Delaware, in June, 1908, Mr. James Chapin and the writer found the Parula Warbler an abundant bird along the Nanticoke River. The subspecific identity of the breeding bird of Delaware has heretofore been uncertain, Ridgway stating that the southern form, true *Compsothlypis americana*, probably reached the State. To settle this question, five males and one female were collected. The males are all fully adult birds, none being in the immature first nuptial plumage. They prove conclusively that the Delaware bird belongs to the northern form, *usneæ*. The size and proportions of wings and bill agree nearly with *usneæ*, while the coloration, though perhaps not typical, is nearer this race. Three of the specimens have a blackish jugular band, while the two others have no trace of it. In this species, however, the total absence of blackish seems to be an individual peculiarity and as

¹ Verrill, Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., IX, 1863, p. 234.

frequent in the northern as in the southern form. Such birds, judging by their remiges and wing-coverts, are not necessarily immature birds but may be fully adult.

Ridgway states (Bds. N. and M. Amer.) that a considerable number of specimens from the range of *usneæ* (Massachusetts, New York, etc.) are indistinguishable from true *americana*. As far as the color goes this is doubtless due to individual variation, but the writer believes that the northern specimens agreeing with *americana* in proportions are almost always immature birds in the first nuptial plumage. In such specimens, as in most other Warblers, the wing averages slightly shorter than in fully adult birds, and as the bill is as large as in the adult, the relative lengths of these parts thus resemble those of the southern race. If *adults* only of the two races are compared the differences in measurements and proportions are found to be more constant.

There seems to be a slight average difference in coloration between *usneæ* of the Atlantic States and the Mississippi Valley bird, which has been separated as *ramalinaæ*. The latter usually has the jugular band more conspicuous and of a deeper black. The characters that separate these two races are so slight, however, that the decision of the A. O. U. Committee in rejecting *ramalinaæ* is doubtless a wise one. There is no difference in proportions between the latter and *usneæ* nor so pronounced a difference in color.

The following table shows the average measurements of males, in millimeters, according to locality and age.

		Wing	Tail	Bill from nostril
Florida and southern Georgia	4 im.	56.2	41.3	7.8
	6 ad.	57.8	42.5	7.6
Delaware	5 ad.	60.4	44.9	7.1
Northern New Jersey to Massachusetts	9 im.	59.2	43.	7.3
	8 ad.	61.4	43.8	7.2
Texas	3 im.	55.1	41.2	7.
	5 ad.	58.6	42.5	7.2
Michigan and Minnesota	2 im.	57.8	41.6	7.
	3 ad.	60.1	42.6	6.9

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Breeding of the Louisiana Water-Thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) in Berkshire County, Massachusetts.—On the afternoon of June 28, 1902, I was following up the course of a brook in Glendale, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, in company with my old friend and schoolmate, Daniel Chester French, when we came to a secluded, shallow pond, less than a quarter of an acre in extent, lying between two wooded ridges of moderate elevation. It was made, a number of years ago, for the purpose of obtaining ice, by a farmer living in the neighborhood who built a rude dam across the brook at a point where, after winding sluggishly through what was then a grassy