

the nature of accidental happening than in conformity with a remarkably retarded migration, not necessarily of the species as a whole, but quite possibly of a regional group acted upon, perhaps as long before as their breeding season, perhaps later, by some unusual inhibiting influence. The late occurrence of this species the same year in Massachusetts, at Belmont, November 15, 19 and 25, has been reported by Dr. Walter Faxon (Auk, XXXIV: 217).

It may here be noted that the northward migration of this warbler the following spring was also unusually late, this, however, being true of most of the warblers, the result of a phenominally cold and backward May. It was not observed until May 17, and the later dates of its occurrence were the 27th, a bright male and a dingy female, and June 3, a female; my latest previous record having been May 18, 1916.—EUGENE P. BICKNELL, *New York, N. Y.*

Rare Warblers at Hatley, Stanstead County, Quebec.—Notwithstanding the very cold and backward spring I have added two new warblers to my list (which now numbers 22 species), the Tennessee (*Vermivora peregrina*) and Blackpoll (*Dendroica striata*). Four examples of the former were seen between May 26-27, out of which two were obtained, and a male of the latter was seen at Ayers Cliff (about six miles from Hatley) on May 28 at close quarters, making identification absolutely sure. In addition to these between May 19 and June 2 may be mentioned twelve examples of the Cape May (out of which I secured three), Nashville, nineteen; Bay-breasted, twelve; Blackburnian, three; Northern Parula, one; and Water-Thrush, eight; besides numbers of all the commoner species with the exception of the Yellow which was again scarce as usual, only three examples being seen.—H. MOUSLEY, *Hatley, Que.*

Sap Drinking Habits of Warblers.¹—So far as I can gather very little is known concerning the above matter, for in the nine or ten pages devoted to the food of these interesting little birds in the standard work on their life history, not a word is mentioned about it, and the only reference I know of will be found in the Biological Survey, Bulletin No. 39 'Woodpeckers in Relation to Trees and Wood Products' 1911, p. 98, wherein the author, Mr. W. L. McAtee, speaking of some defensive measures against sapsuckers recommends poisoning the sap, but adds the following warning note, viz.: "It should be noted here that hummingbirds and some other small birds, particularly warblers, will be killed by poison intended for sapsuckers." From this we may gather that the habit is not altogether unknown, but the majority of people, I think, are unaware of it, certainly I have been paying special attention to this family for the past few years, but have never noted it until the fall of last year (1916) and therefore think my experience may be worth recording. It was on Sep-

¹ Read before the Nuttall Ornithological Club, May 21, 1917.

tember 19, that whilst passing close to an old silver birch tree on the borders of a large wood, a Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) flew off one of the overhanging branches, which at the time naturally caused me no surprise, nor was I particularly interested, when returning some two hours later the same thing occurred again. However in the afternoon when covering the same ground the warbler again left the branch, as well as a Yellow-breasted Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius varius*) the trunk, I must admit my curiosity was aroused, and I decided to secrete myself and await results. It was not long before both birds returned to the tree, the sapsucker to some holes in the trunk, and the warbler to some on the upper side of the branch which I had not noticed. Here he regaled himself on the sap after the manner of his companion, and continued doing so for some considerable time, until I came out of hiding when both birds flew away. For the next two days I visited the spot on several occasions and every time the warbler was there, and usually the sapsucker as well but I never saw the former attempt to take the sap from the holes in the trunk, but only from those on the branch, where it was able to perch readily and drink at leisure, and no doubt eat any small flies or insects that may have got caught in the sap as well. The next case to come under my notice was that of an adult female Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*) which on October 1 (the latest date as it so happens on which I have noticed it here) flew into the branches of a beach tree and commenced imbibing the sap from some old sapsucker holes. Whilst watching it I noticed another cluster of holes in the trunk, and it was not long before the bird on hovering wings after the manner of a hummingbird was abstracting the sap, and no doubt any insects from these also, thus differing in this respect from the Myrtle, which as already stated never once attempted the feat, although no doubt it was quite as competent to perform it as the other. It looks as though this habit may only be resorted to in the fall, when insects are scarce and late departing birds have some difficulty in making all ends meet.— H. MOUSLEY, *Hatley, Que.*

A Roosting Place of Fledgling House Wrens.— A pair of House Wrens which had bred in a box in Mr. George Nelson's garden in Lexington, Mass., brought out their second brood of young in the morning of Aug. 19. 1917. The family remained in the vicinity of the box during the day. At twilight Mr. Nelson watched one of the parents assemble the young birds in a pitch pine tree near the box, and escort them to a little nest or platform well concealed among the pine needles where they settled for the night, huddled together in a compact mass. The Wrens' roosting place is five feet from the ground and twelve feet from the box they were reared in. It is a frail, circular, shallow cup, made of fine roots and was originally no doubt, the foundation of a Chipping Sparrow's nest. On the following night the young birds, after making a tour over the space of half an acre, during which they visited another nest twenty yards away, returned to the same place to roost. On the next evening (Aug. 21) I joined Mr.