

It has been my good fortune, to twice meet with the Orange-crowned Warbler during the month of January within thirty miles of New York City. On January 20, 1926, while meandering along the eastern shore of the Hudson River at Inwood Park, New York City, I noticed a small Warbler flitting about the low shrubs of a garden. Careful study of this bird through 10 power binoculars left no doubt as to its identity. This individual appeared to be in perfect condition despite the cold boreal blasts which came across the Hudson and was in characteristic manner restlessly flitting about.

My second winter meeting with this species came on the dull cold day of January 6, 1935, at Old Greenwich, Connecticut. Miss Helen B. Gere, Mr. and Mrs. Murdock and the writer had just finished combing a hemlock grove for a Barred Owl (*Strix varia varia*) which had been observed the week before, when we heard a sweet song. It was on the style of a Chipping Sparrow's chant but had a much sweeter more musical quality. None of us had any idea as to the identity of the songster but a few minutes search brought us face to face with a typical fall-plumaged Orange-crowned Warbler. It was soon joined by two others of the same species and we carefully studied the trio for the next half hour. The birds seemed to prefer the low shrubbery along the marshy edges of a stream and not until disturbed did they take to a small group of white pines on a nearby ridge. Two of these birds were in the typical dull autumn plumage but the third was much more sulphur below and had a gray wash to the head. We can only suspect that the song first heard was given by one of these birds but for the length of our observations we heard only the characteristic call note which is a sharp "chip."—ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK, *New York City*.

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata celata*) in Maine.—The following notes on the Orange-crowned Warbler may be of interest in view of the fact that this species is uncommon in Maine.

On October 12 and 13, the state was subjected to a severe and unseasonable north-east storm, alternating, in the vicinity of Bangor, between snow and rain. The temperature for the two days ranged between 30 and 40 degrees, and the velocity of the wind on the 13th was about twenty miles an hour. About nine o'clock in the evening of this date, an exhausted and dazed Orange-crowned Warbler fluttered through the door of a department store in the heart of Bangor's business district. It was given to my wife who brought it home in a small cage of the type used in transporting Canaries.

The bird exhibited no fear at all, and permitted me to handle it as much as I pleased, as well as to make a few measurements. There was no question as to the species, and the bird was, I believe, a female of the year. No trace of a crown patch was visible, even by closely examining the feathers, and while this condition is sometimes found in adult females as well as young males, the general plumage indicated a young female. The bill measured .45 in. and the tarsus .65 in.

On the morning of the 14th, the bird made known a very keen desire to leave its close quarters so I removed it to a Canary cage after first taking out the Canary. I placed a twig from an apple tree in the cage and the Warbler quickly gleaned the leaves for insects. It appeared perfectly at home in the cage and made no effort to get out after the first few minutes of exploration.

Desiring to experiment a bit, I put the Canary in the cage with the Warbler. For about fifteen minutes the birds showed no particular interest in each other, even when the Warbler alighted on the Canary's head for a second. However, when the Warbler perched on the food dish, the Canary showed pugilistic tendencies, and it

was decided to remove it. I kept the Warbler in the cage for the rest of the day, much to the disgust of the Canary, who was forced to occupy the smaller quarters.

The bird was very hungry and I procured an assortment of insects from a nearby field. It readily took this food from my fingers or from forceps. In spite of its hunger, however, it was extremely particular as to the type of food which it ate. It snapped at a garden snail but refused to eat it. The same thing proved true in the case of sow bugs and ground beetles. It readily accepted grasshoppers, flies and crickets, and in the evening ate a little bread which had been soaked in milk.

The most interesting feature about the actions of the bird was its behavior with large grasshoppers or crickets. Holding the insect firmly in the bill, the Warbler repeatedly beat it against the floor of the cage. The movement of the head while this performance went on was so rapid that my eyes could scarcely follow it. Whether such procedure is intended to kill insects that are too large to swallow or whether it is intended to break them into smaller pieces, I could not say. It may be a common act among Warblers, but I have never observed it in nature nor have I read anything concerning it.

The only note made by the bird was a very sharp, rather high-pitched "chip," uttered occasionally when it was in the smaller cage.

On the morning of the 15th a small flock of White-throated Sparrows, White-crowned Sparrows, and Myrtle Warblers was in the garden, so, against my ornithological desire to keep the Orange-crowned Warbler as a specimen, we liberated it. At first it seemed reluctant to go, remaining on the edge of the cage for several minutes, but upon hearing the notes of the other birds, it flew to the top of an apple tree and immediately commenced feeding among the leaves.—HOWARD L. MENDALL, *Department of Zoology, University of Maine, Orono, Maine.*

On the Color of the Iris in the Western Cuban Grackle.—When collecting in Cuba in 1900 with William Palmer, we found the Grackle (*Holoquiscalus jamaicensis caribaeus*) not uncommon in Pinar del Rio Province and during March and April the birds were all in adult plumage and with yellow irides. In the latter part of June we visited the Isle of Pines and one of the first Grackles shot, though in apparently adult plumage, had the irides brown. It was recorded on the label as hazel as we then thought the specimen was a new form. Later we saw adults with yellow irides and immature birds with brown irides, and reached the conclusion that all immature birds had the irides brown and that they assumed the adult plumage before the color of the eyes changed. This may explain some of the divergent views on the color of the eyes in the Boat-tailed Grackle and related forms that have been appearing in the literature in recent years. Unfortunately, Ridgway (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 50, pt. 2, 1902, p. 226) used the note on the color of the eye on the Isle of Pines' specimen in stating the color of the iris of the Cuban Grackle as hazel. My understanding of hazel at that time was not the hazel of Ridgway's 'Nomenclature of Colors,' but more of a raw umber. The color of the eye of the Cuban Grackle as given by Ridgway is erroneous for the form and should have been corrected long ago.—J. H. RILEY, *U. S. National Museum.*

The Red Crossbill in Kansas:—A Correction.—In the October, 1932, issue of the Auk (Vol. XLIX, p. 489) I reported the presence of the Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra pusilla*) at Lawrence, Kansas. The identification was based on specimens then in the University of Kansas Museum of Birds and Mammals. Since then W. S. Long, of this museum, and myself have had occasion to re-examine these and other Crossbills in the collection. It is evident from this examination that the original