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100 Years Ago in The Auk



From "The Rediscovery of Bachman's Warbler, *Helminthophila bachmani* (Aud.), in the United States" by George N. Lawrence (1887, Auk 4: 36-37):

"No specimen of it [*Helminthophila bachmani*] has been obtained in the United States since the types discovered by Dr. Bachman in 1833, near Charleston, S. C., and described by Mr. Audubon. These are now in the National Museum at Washington. A search in the proper locality would probably result in finding more of this rare species, as was the case in Mr. Brewster's persistent pursuit of Swainson's Warbler. . . .

"As the coloring of this specimen was somewhat different from Mr. Audubon's plate, I wrote to Mr. Ridgway, pointing out wherein they differed, and requesting him to let me know whether the male (type) was accurately represented in the plate. He replied as follows: 'Your announcement of a specimen of Bachman's Warbler from Louisiana is a great

surprise to me, as it doubtless will be to ornithologists in general. Your bird corresponds in every particular with the male described and figured by Audubon, which is in our collection. The top of the head is dull ash gray, bordered anteriorly by a black band next to the yellow of the forehead, and the yellow of the face and underparts are of a dull yellow shade (oil yellow I would call it), exactly as you describe the specimen in your possession. Audubon's plate is very faulty in several particulars.'

"Mr. Galbraith [the collector] obtained only this specimen, and has no recollection of seeing another, but if he had—not knowing its desirability—he said, if a more highly plumaged bird had been in sight, it would have been shot in preference. . . ."