

1902. Coues, Elliott. Key to North American Birds, II. *Wilsonia microcephala*, pp. 223-224.
1902. Ridgway, Robert. Birds of North and Middle America, II. *Wilsonia microcephala* Ridgway. ("Pennsylvania and New Jersey; also, according to Audubon, Kentucky.")
1904. Townsend, Charles Wendall, M.D. The Birds of Essex County, Mass. *Memoirs of the Nuttall Orn. Club*, No. III, *Muscicapa minuta*, p. 318. ("Brewer at Wenham.")
1907. Chapman, Frank M. Warblers of North America, Hypothetical List, *Wilsonia microcephala* (Ridg.), pp. 299-300.
1908. Trotter, Spencer. Type Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. *Cassinia*, XI. 1907, *Muscicapa minuta* (Wils.), p. 25. ("This species, not since detected and the basis of Audubon's attack on Wilson and Ord's counter charge, is stated by the latter to have been secured by Wilson near Philadelphia.")

THE BIRDS OF POINT PEELEE.

BY P. A. TAVERNER AND B. H. SWALES.

(Continued from Vol. XIX. p. 153.)

142.† *Piranga erythromelas*.—Scarlet Tanager.

We have found the Scarlet Tanager common on all May visits. In the fall it has not been as numerous as the abundance of other species would lead us to anticipate. From September 4 to 15, 1905, we saw but five, all on the 5th. The next year one was seen September 1 and none on the succeeding visit in the middle of the same month. However, on October 14 three were secured or taken. In 1907 from August 26 to September 2 one or two were noted each day. In all probability it is a more or less common summer resident.

143. *Progne subis*.—Purple Martin.

The Purple Martin has always been present on the occasions of our May trips about the streets of Leamington, where a colony or colonies continue to hold out. Swales, in his trip from May 1 to 4, 1908, discovered from ten to several there, while at the same time they had not arrived in any numbers in Detroit. Our fall dates have usually been a little late for this species, which usually leaves these localities before the end of August.

In the fall of 1905 Lynds Jones' work among the outlying islands

†Owing to a mistake of the writer, the numbering of some of the last species in the previous installment of this list is incorrect. This is the proper number of this species in its sequence in the list.

drew to a close just about the time when we first installed ourselves on the Point, September 4. In regard to this species, he says:

“Crossed in great numbers from Pelee Island via Middle and Kelly’s to Marblehead, during my stay on Pelee Island.”

The species had practically gone when we arrived as we saw but five stragglers sailing southward over the marsh on the 5th.

In 1906, no fall birds were noted, but the following year, August 24, the flight had not yet passed, though from the reports of the residents, it was then considerably diminished in numbers. One was seen the day of our arrival, but none the next. On the 26th 18 were noted. That night the steadily blowing wind that had so far succeeded in keeping the mosquito pests in the dense bush, died down and they sallied forth to our camp hungry after a three-days’ fast. Mosquito netting was but a slight impediment to their flight; dope but made them mad, and smudge smoke goaded them to frenzy and but added vigor to their attack. We lay on the beach, close to the water’s edge, wrapped in our blankets until we nearly smothered. We sat in the smoke of the fire until our eyes ran, and in desperation three of us gathered up our field traps in the dark and started out towards the end of the Point. We arrived there just as the first faint tint of gray was showing on the eastern horizon and climbed to the top of the tower that has been before mentioned, in the hope that the mosquito pests would not ascend to that altitude. Though we were disappointed in this, there were compensations that really amply repaid us for all our night of trouble and the long tramp out in the dark.

The day broke grey and cloudy. At first there was silence, broken only by the sharp monotone of our little tormentors, the water lapping the shore, or the rude, harsh sounds of our noisy feet upon the wooden floor. Then an occasional bird note cut sharp and clear through the surrounding gloom as a Wood Pewee or a Chipping Sparrow awoke. It grew lighter, and the nearby red cedars stood solidly out from the misty background, and a few little peeps came down from high overhead, warning us that either the night migrations were not yet over or that those of the morning were just begun. As it became lighter and the mist became slightly luminous, we were aware of occasional shadows passing swiftly by us, but so dim and evanescent as to be felt rather than seen. There was no sunrise, but, as the landscape grew brighter, the species of the passers-by could be made out with some degree of certainty; and the bird notes came up to us rather oftener as bird after bird awakened and added its quota to the Martin chorus. The passing birds, few at first, increased in numbers. Bank Swallows passed swiftly by and a few Rough-wings, but most of them were Barn Swallows that came along in widely scattered groups of five or six; climbing up invisible aerial wave slopes, pausing a moment at the top, and then coasting

down the other side in long easy curves, with a swinging turn now to this side and now to that as if deflected by easily avoidable obstacles, invisible to us. Once in a while a Chimney Swift came busily by on rapidly beating wings like a great sphinx moth. All were making southward and away over the lake.

After it had been light for about half an hour, an occasional Martin appeared on the landward horizon, grew in apparent size, until by the refraction of the morning mists it seemed as large as a small hawk, passed us, and was swallowed up in the fog over the water on the farther side. They came oftener and oftener, until there was a steady stream of them coming down the Point, not in regularly organized flocks, but singly, and in ones and twos and half dozens. Standing there in the early morning half light it was most impressive. The mist lay below us and covered the ground with soft diaphanous billows. Through it the sharp conical red cedars pushed up half their length, sharp and clear cut in the foreground, but growing dimmer in the distance until they melted away into the vague horizon. The sky was leaden in color. Through the mist came the Martins. We were elevated to their plane of flight and were alone with them. On they came, bird after bird, on their strong bowed wings, out of the nebulous north, cutting strong and black against the neutral background. Without hurry or haste, calm, dignified and determined, they held a true course and swerved neither to one side or the other. With no apparent concerted action, but as if each one was filled with a like but independent impulse of migration and was urged on and on, south, ever south, by an inward monitor that ruled supreme.

It was only a flight of migrating Martins, and tame enough in the telling, but the reality was impressive indeed. The empty grayness of the vacant landscape and the succession of impassionate birds, all hastening under a mysterious impulse from a region of unknown extent to the north and converging to this one little spit of sand projecting out into the waters, on their way to a softer climate, in anticipation of colder times as yet in the future. It gave the impression of a never-ending procession passing from one unknown to another. Summer was past, winter was coming, the season was advancing and could be no more retarded than the order of the stars could be altered. Word had gone forth and had been received by each and every individual. No Fiery Cross was necessary—Nature had willed it, and that was sufficient, the clans obeyed and it had come to pass. Imagination reached forth and saw them gathering from the whole mysterious northland. Some were working down the rugged shores of Georgian Bay, passing from headland to headland or island to island; others passing over the scorched sand plains of northern Michigan, and all were headed in the same general direction and, with the same deliberate, steady and unhurried flight, the migrations were proceeding as inevitably as fate.

We watched them for some time, then, after collecting a few almost as fast as we could load and fire, returned to camp for breakfast. All day long when we looked up we could see the same steady stream making south over the land, while during the warmer parts of the day, the higher region of the air was filled with them, one above the other as high as the eye could reach, circling about hither and thither, preparatory to proceeding. A hundred birds could be so counted during most of the day; but this could not have been the culmination of the migration, for we were informed that the day previous to that of our arrival, on the 23d, one of the residents killed seventeen at one shot. This must have been a great flock, and we saw nothing like it during our stay.

After this we saw but occasional Martins each day until September 5, when another smaller flight occurred. At this time we counted them at the end of the Point, and they passed over at about the rate of ten every fifteen minutes. From our station at camp we judged that they continued at about the same rate all day. During the previous flight there were double this number passing, and perhaps treble would be closer to the mark. The former flight was composed mostly of adults of both sexes with a few juvenile males. The latter were all females, a few adult. No males at all were seen during our period of observation at the end of the Point when nearly all passed close enough to us to make this point practically certain.

The first flight was undertaken in a light breeze blowing from the south, but the latter was in the teeth of a good brisk wind, bathing the whole beach with a line of white breakers extending for some distance from shore. In spite of this the martins and swallows sailed steadily out to sea without a moment's hesitation or appearing even to notice the stress. At the same time we noticed other species, notably Cedarbirds, essay the passage, but after thorough testing of conditions, concluded it too strenuous and returned for more favorable times.

From statements made by several of the residents living in the vicinity of the lower part of the Point the spring flight of the martins about the middle of April, 1907, must have been even more extensive than the fall flight. They relate how the birds, overtaken by the cold, raw weather that prevailed, clustered in immense numbers at night in all available out-houses, where they covered every possible perching place, completely lining the walls, floors, etc., especially in a deserted barn. We have not been fortunate enough to be present on the Point during the period of the spring flight.

144. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*.—Cliff Swallow.

Though never very common we have found a limited number of Cliff Swallows on most of our seasonable visits. Several seen May 13, 1905. Two September 11 of the same year in company with a

mixed flock of Barn and Bank Swallows. Several May 20, 1906, and about five September 1, 1906, on the telegraph wires at the base of the Point. None noted the May-June trip of the following year, but from August 24th to the 31st, from two to ten were seen each day, but none in September. Not noted May 1-4, 1908, when Wallace and Swales made a trip. This is by no means an abundant species in this section. Its reddish tan rump makes a conspicuous and certain field mark when the bird is in flight.

145. **Hirundo erythrogastra*.—Barn Swallow.

A common summer resident. Common on all May dates. In 1905 the last were noted September 5, when considerable numbers were seen. In 1908 they were common the first three days of September, and about twenty-five were noted the 15th, and about ten the 19th. In 1907 they were still common and migrating heavily up to the time of our leaving, September 6.

146. **Iridoprocne bicolor*.—Tree Swallow.

The Tree Swallow we have found practically common on all May dates. In the fall it has never been abundant. In September, 1905, a few were noted daily from the 4th to 11th, on which latter date several flocks were observed passing over. September 18, 1906, three were seen, making our only record for the locality that season. In 1907 from one to eighteen were noted from August 24th to the 30th, and no more after that. There has been a considerable diminution in the abundance of the fall flocks of this species in this section of late years.

147. **Riparia riparia*.—Bank Swallow.

Common on all May visits. In 1905 the last fall flock was noted September 11. In 1906, common the first three days of September, and not seen during our return visit in the middle of the month. In 1907, great numbers were seen the latter end of August from the 24th, irregularly diminishing to the time of our departure, September 6, when but several were noted. A few seen May 2, 1908.

148. **Stelgidopteryx serripennis*.—Rough-winged Swallow.

One of the many interesting events of our fall trip of 1907 was the number of Rough-wings seen migrating from August 24 to September 2. They were generally mixed in with large flocks of Bank Swallows, and nearly every time we closely scrutinized the latter we found numbers of the former among them. We counted and estimated the number of Rough-wings seen on these various days as 20, 100, 15, 4, 2 and 10. If the same proportion of this species existed in all the flocks of Bank Swallows the number of this usually rare species that passed over the Point must have been very great.

We found by repeated trials, verified by the capture of specimens, that careful attention could always separate the two species, whenever the conditions of observation were at all favorable. A closely discriminating eye can tell them by the difference in flight, as Saunders several times demonstrated. To the less acute, the soft brownish suffusion over the throat and breast of the Rough-wing, instead of the sharply defined breast bar of the Bank and the slightly more reddish cast (more appreciable in life than in museum specimens) are quite sufficient to separate the two species. The slightly superior size of *scripennis*, though sometimes quite apparent, is not always sufficiently marked for ready recognition.

Though quite a number were taken, all were juveniles and without the characteristic roughness on the primaries that gives them their distinctive name. Seemingly, this peculiar feather specialization is only acquired with age, and we have spring birds that are entirely without it and others on which it is but slightly marked. Swales saw several May 2, 1908, in company with numbers of Barn Swallows.

149. **Ampelis cedrorum*.—Cedar Waxwing.

Common on nearly all visits except those of October in 1905 and 1906. It seems also to be present during the winter in considerable numbers, and Gardner reported them at various times during the winter of 1906-7 and 1907-8. We saw large flocks March 9-10, 1907. September 5, 1907, we saw a flock start out over the lake with the evident intention of crossing, but the stiff south wind proved too strong for them and they returned. Very common May 1-3, in large flocks, distributed all over the Point.

HYPOTHETICAL.

Lanius borealis.—Northern Shrike.

Though this species undoubtedly occurs, we list it "hypothetical" for the sake of consistency as we have no absolutely authentic record of its occurrence. Gardner, on being shown a Migrant Shrike, reported having seen, in the winter, birds like it but larger.

150. **Lanius ludovicianus migrans*.—Migrant Shrike.

Of late years we have found this species almost scarce about Detroit, nor has it been common on the Point. From August 24 to September 6, 1907, we noted single individuals several times; once near Sturgeon Creek, at the Base, again about half way out, in the vicinity of some old hennery building; and on two or three occasions, in the deserted fields near the end of the Point. September 6, 1907, a juvenile was brought to us by one of the residents. We have seen them on no other occasions.

151. **Vireo olivaceus*.—Red-eyed Vireo.

Practically common on all reasonable visits. They were not yet present May 1-4, 1908, but have been observed on all other May dates. In September, 1905, they were common until the 8th, then one was seen the 11th, and no more up to the date of our departure, the 15th. In September, 1906, they were numerous during our visit the first three days of the month, but on our return the 15th, there were none noted until the 17th, when from one to four were seen each day to our departure. Some remained well into October, and several were noted the 14th of that month. From August 24th to September 6th, 1907, they were seen every day, their numbers culminating the 20th. The next day but one was observed, and from then on to the day of our departure but scattered individuals were seen.

152. **Vireo philadelphicus*.—Philadelphia Vireo.

Apparently a regular and not uncommon spring and fall migrant, although we never observed it on the Point until September 1, 1906, when a male was secured and one again on each of the two succeeding days. On the return visit, the same month, two or three were seen or secured each day from the 17th to the 21st. The following spring, 1907, five were observed May 31 and four the next day. None were recognized during the fall trip of August 24-September 6, 1907. On this last occasion, however, all the early fall migrations were over a week late and consequently the great probability is that they had not yet arrived. In the fall the Philadelphia Vireo can be distinguished, under favorable circumstances, with no great difficulty, owing to the comparatively bright yellow underparts that serves at once to distinguish it from either the Red-eyed or Warbling Vireos with which it is apt to be confused. In the spring its likeness to the Warbling is most confusing, and then even an experienced eye should be aided by the ear. Of course with the bird in the hand, the absence of the rudimentary or "bastard" first primary is always an easy and conclusive test of the Philadelphia.

153. **Vireo gilvus*.—Warbling Vireo.

The Warbling Vireo has always been a common bird along the western or wooded sections of the Point on all May visits, except those of May 1-4, 1904, and May 31-June 1, 1907. From this latter date we argue that it is not a common summer resident. Our only fall date is September 3, 1906, when a few were noted. This Vireo rarely lingers in this section after the first of September.

154. *Vireo flavifrons*.—Yellow-throated Vireo.

Though a common summer resident and still more numerous migrant in the Detroit vicinity, strangely enough, it seems to be a rare bird on the Point. Our few records are not thoroughly satisfactory,

having been but cursory sight identifications made by various members of our parties under not very favorable conditions, and unaware of the scarcity of the species in this particular locality. May 14, 1905, we listed three, September 1-2, 1906, several, and August 29, 1907, one.

155. **Vireo solitarius*.—Blue-headed Vireo.

May 14, 1905, this was a common bird on the Point and we were seldom out of sight or hearing of one or more during our whole tramp from the camp to the base of the Point. That fall one was taken September 13, which was likely the first of the migrants. The next year (1906) we noted none in May; the 20-21st being rather late for them in a normal year. That fall (1906) one and two were detected September 18 and 19. The spring of 1907 being phenomenally late, one bird was seen May 31 and another June 1. For the fall migrations of that year we have but one date and one individual, August 31, which is, according to our experience, unusually early. The white eye ring and loreal stripe, standing out from the clear gray of the head, make a field recognition mark not easy to mistake.

156. **Mniotilta varia*.—Black and White Warbler.

May 14, 1905, a practically normal spring, but two were noted. The following year, May 20-21, was too late for them and none were observed, but the spring of 1907, which was remarkable for its lateness, we saw five, May 31. A few were noted May 3 and 4, 1908. It has been present and more or less common during all our fall dates, except those of October. In 1905, a few were seen from September 4 to 8, after which none were observed until the 13th, when a large flight arrived, and they were common for the day, but left that night and but three were noted the next morning. In 1906 nothing worthy of note was observed either in number or fluctuations of number during our two trips to the Point, though they were considerably more numerous on the first than on the later visits. They were already present on our arrival August 24, 1907, and remained in fairly constant numbers until we left, September 6.

157. **Helminthophila pinus*.—Blue-winged Warbler.

September 2, 1906, Taverner had the pleasure not only of adding this species to the Pelee list, but of making a primal record for the Dominion when he took a juvenile of indeterminate sex in a grape vine tangle near the east shore at the end of the Cross Road. The specimen is numbered No. 662 in his collection. The next day he shot what he thought was another, but was unable to find it in the dense shrubbery.

158. *Helminthophila chrysoptera*.—Golden-winged Warbler.

This is another species common all summer in the Detroit vicinity, but rather rare on the Point. Fortunately, though no specimens have been taken, they have been seen under circumstances that make identification certain. May 21, 1906, one was noted. August 31, 1907, another was seen by Taverner near camp, and September 2 the same observer noted one along the east shore in the vicinity of the Cross Road.

159. **Helminthophila rubricapilla*.—Nashville Warbler.

Likely a more or less common and a regular migrant, though our records for the species are few and more or less scattered. One May 13, 1905, and three September 6 of the same year. The next fall five, one, eight, six and one were enumerated September 1, 18, 19, 20 and 21, but none on the spring trip of May 20-21. One was noted May 31, 1907, among the late warblers of that abnormal spring, but up to the time of our departure in the fall, September 6, they had not put in an appearance. The spring of 1908, Swales noted one each day, May 2 and 3.

160. **Helminthophila peregrina*.—Tennessee Warbler.

A regular and not uncommon migrant, spring and fall. Ten noted May 14, 1905, May 20-21, 1906, which is normally late for them, none were seen, but May 31 and June 1, 1907, when so many late warbler records were made, two rather questionable birds were noted. None were listed May 1-4, 1908.

In the fall it is one of the earliest warblers to arrive. On August 26, 1907, one was taken; an arrival date that seems about normal, as we can closely parallel it with Detroit dates. We saw but one other this season, on the 29th. The preceding year they were still present in some numbers the first three days of September, and in full song. One was noted September 4, 1905, and another the 14th. The species remains quite late and we have a record of an individual, October 14, 1906.

161. **Compsothlypis americana usnea*.—Northern Parula Warbler.

Conversely to the cases of the Golden-winged Warbler and the Yellow-throated Vireo, cited before, this species seems to be a rather common migrant on the Point, at least in spring, while it is very rare at Detroit at all seasons. May 14, 1905, which is our only spring date strictly within its regular migrational season, we found it very common the whole length of the western wooded shore. None were observed May 20-21, 1906, but in the abnormally late spring of 1907 we saw one May 30, and three June 1. The fall of the same year one was taken August 28, giving us our only fall date.

162. *Dendroica tigrina*.—Cape May Warbler.

This species, long classed as one of the rarest of the warblers, has proved itself during our work at the Point to warrant a hardly less strict term than scarce and, at times, has been almost common. We have never detected its presence in spring, but that is likely because the dates of our spring work on the Point have never fallen within those of the height of the warbler migrations. In 1905, three were taken September 8, and ten seen or taken the 13th, in the red cedar thickets near the end of the Point and the presence of more strongly suspected. In 1906, two were taken or observed September 17, and an equal number the next day. In 1907, from one to four were noted or captured each day from August 29 to September 2. Among the specimens so gathered, we obtained an almost complete series of fall plumages—from the young of the year to adults of both sexes. In life there is something peculiarly characteristic in the appearance of a faint, hidden copper spot that can only be distinguished in some juvenile females on parting the feathers, but is present in all specimens so far examined.

163. *Dendroica astiva*.—Yellow Warbler.

Common on all May visits except that of 1908, when but two were observed on the 3d. The season, however, was very late, the weather inclement and all warblers were behind in their appearance. The Yellow Warbler is one of the earliest warblers to depart in fall, and consequently we have, until 1907, been late for it on our autumn trips. About Detroit it is not common to see them after the first of August, and often the last ones are observed about the middle of July. However, from August 24 to 29, we saw one or two each day, and once as many as six, then no more were noted until September 2, when the last two were noted. Several times in May we have found a number of peculiar, unmarked and much worn green plumages among them. May 20-21, 1906, we were particularly struck with their numbers. They invariably haunted the ground and brush piles, acting more like members of the genus *Geothlypis* than *Dendroica*. Several were taken for Connecticut, from their peculiar skulking actions, and suffered in consequence. Although their kind was singing all around them they uttered nothing but commonplace little peeps. Their plumage was worn and soiled, and all taken proved to be females with poorly developed ovaries.

164. *Dendroica carulescens*.—Black-throated Blue Warbler.

A common spring and fall migrant. May 13-14, 1905, was about the culmination of their migration and they were abundant in all the wooded sections of the Point. The next year, May 20-21, was a little late for them and consequently but few were seen. During the abnormal spring of 1907, six and four were seen May 31 and

June 1 respectively. None were seen May 1-4, 1908. In the fall they seem to occur in greatest abundance about the first week of September. In 1905 they were common from September 4 to 13, after which their numbers suddenly dropped off to nothing. The next year they were present in limited numbers the first three days of the month, and on our return visit from the 15th to 22d, several to fifteen were noted each day, the latter number being reached but once, the 20th. As late as October 14, ten were noted. They had not put in an appearance on the Point in 1907 up to the time of our departure September 6. A valuable field mark for this species is the white spot at the base of the folded primaries, that is present to a more or less marked degree in nearly all plumages. This is one of the few warblers of which the fall juveniles are almost indistinguishable in plumage from the spring adults.

165. *Dendroica coronata*.—Myrtle Warbler.

May 14, 1905, this species was common on the Point and, though we failed to notice any May 20-21, 1906, one was seen each day of May 30 and June 1, 1907. This late date, however, means very little from a migrational standpoint for, as has been before mentioned, it was an abnormal spring and many birds remained long after their usual time for departure had passed. May 1-3, 1908, it was fairly common on all three days spent on the Point. In 1905 but one individual was observed October 29, as they had not yet arrived up to the time of our departure on the former trip, September 15. The following year the first fall migrant was noted September 20, and more the next two succeeding days, and were quite numerous October 14 and 15. None were detected the fall of 1907 to the date of our leaving, September 6.

166. *Dendroica maculosa*.—Magnolia Warbler.

But two seen May 2, 1908, but common on all other May trips. Six were noted as late as June 1, 1907. September, 1905, it was fluctuatingly common from the 4th to 15th, common the first three days of the month in 1906, but very variable in numbers from the 16th to 21st, when it only reached numbers to be designated common the 20th. Several were noted each day from August 27th to our departure September 6, 1907.

167. *Dendroica cerulea*.—Cerulean Warbler.

Although the Cerulean Warbler is a common migrant, and not uncommon breeder on the adjacent Michigan side of the international boundary, it was far from numerous at any season when we have been at the Point. In the spring we have seen but a few individuals, May 14, 1905, and 20, 1906. It is an early migrant in fall and usually passes through this latitude the latter part of August. September

4, 1905, one was taken, and in 1907 a few were seen each day from August 26 to 29, when the last evidently departed.

168. **Dendroica pensylvanica*.—Chestnut-sided Warbler.

Common spring migrant and regular, but in more limited numbers, in the fall. May 14, 1905, it was common, but we saw none May 20-21, 1906. Among the other extraordinary occurrences of the spring of 1907 was the great numbers of this species noted June 1. We estimated the numbers seen that day as 150. In the fall we noted a few at the beginning and end of our stay, September 4-15. One each day September 3, 18 and 19, 1906, and several were noted daily between August 29 and the time of our departure, September 6, 1907.

169. **Dendroica castanea*.—Bay-breasted Warbler.

A common spring and fall migrant. May 14, 1905, it was almost abundant and was certainly the most common warbler migrant on the Point. May 20-21, 1906, was a little late for their normal migration, but the abnormal spring of 1907 saw them still present in considerable numbers June 1. None were noted May 1-4, 1908. In the fall we have seen them in fair numbers on all of our September trips, in 1907 as early as August 26. They generally come in company with the Black-polls, which rather outnumber them in abundance, and which they so closely resemble in fall as to make the separation of the two species sometimes most difficult even to the most expert. It is rare, however, though it is sometimes said to occur, that a trace of the spring buff is not to be observed on the sides of the adults or a warm ochraceous suffusion is not noticeable on the sides of the juveniles of the species. The lack of the faint streaks on the breast, which usually show up on the Black-poll in life out of all proportion to their intensity as observed in dry skins, is diagnostic. The under-tail coverts of the Bay-breast are also cream color, while in the Black-poll they are pure white. The color of the feet is said to be of value in separating the two species, it being stated that, in the Bay-breast these parts are dusky, while in the Black-poll they show a more yellowish brown color. This may be somewhat helpful in fresh birds, but in dry skins the difference, according to our series of specimens, is so slight and variable as to be of little use in determining the specific designation.

170. **Dendroica striata*.—Black-poll Warbler.

The peculiar spring distribution of this bird in this and adjoining sections of Michigan was touched upon by the authors in the Auk, 1907, p. 146-7. It is a very rare spring migrant at Detroit and, up to 1907, no spring records had been made for the county. At Port Huron, at the foot of Lake Huron, it is more common. It is abun-

dant in fall in both localities. At Pelee, it is a more or less common and regular spring migrant. May 14, 1905, a bird supposed to be of this species was shot and lost in the underbrush by Swales, near the base of the Point. The next year, May 21, the identification of this bird received verification, when several were taken or seen in about the same locality. May 30-June 1, 1907, we saw several each day. In the fall it has always been a very abundant migrant, and we have found it common on all September visits. September 3, 1906, was notable for a great wave of this species that came in the preceding night. As an unusual feature, there were few, if any Bay-breasts, among them. In 1907 the first was observed August 28. Our latest date is September 21, 1906, when they were still common on our departure.

171. **Dendroica blackburnia*.—Blackburnian Warbler.

May 14, 1905, the Blackburnian Warbler was common in all the deciduous and red-cedar woodland. May 20-21, the succeeding year, was a little late for them and we saw but one each day. May 30-June 1, 1907, they were very common. On the latter date we estimated the number seen as one hundred. It has not ordinarily proved as abundant in the fall as in the spring. A few were seen September, 1905, on the 4th, 5th and 14th. In 1906 we listed but single birds on the 17th and 20th of the same month. The first was seen, 1907, August 26, and from then on, until the day of our departure, September 6, several or more were noted almost daily.

172. **Dendroica virens*.—Black-throated Green Warbler.

Common May 14, 1905, but not observed May 20-21, 1906. In 1907 it broke all records by remaining until June 1, upon which date numbers were seen. Not noted May 1-4, 1908. September 4, 1905, it was present upon our arrival, and remained through our visit (until the 15th) in varying numbers. In 1906, it was not noted until September 18, after which several were observed each day until we left, the 21st. One was noted October 15 of the same year, but none put in an appearance in 1907 to the date of our departure, September 6.

173. **Dendroica palmarum*.—Palm Warbler.

Along the crest of the eastern sand dunes, wherever the stunted cottonwoods offered any cover, we found this species fairly common, May 13, 1905, but observed none the following day along the wooded shores of the west side. This and May 3-4, 1908, when it appeared quite common, are the only times we have met with the Palm Warbler on the Point in spring. Either real scarcity of numbers or its skulking habits and quiet coloration cause it to pass through unobserved. This is not a warbler that is commonly met with in the fall.

One was taken September 5, and another seen each day of the 13th, 14th, and 15th, 1905, in the waste fields near the end of the Point. It has not been noted on any other occasion.

174. **Dendroica discolor*.—Prairie Warbler.

September 5, 1905, Klugh took a juvenile male of this species in the dense thickets back of the eastern shore, just beyond the cross-road (see Auk XXIII, 1906, p. 105), making the third recorded specimen of the species for Ontario. This is our only record for the Point, though Saunders thought that he heard one singing September 20, 1906, and Taverner thought that he recognized another individual September 6, 1907, that he failed to secure, on the same grounds where Klugh took his. It may be found to be a regular though rare migrant on the Point.

175. **Seiurus aurocapillus*.—Oven-bird.

Surprisingly scarce in spring. This was an unexpected condition to meet anywhere in this section, for the Oven-bird is one of the commonest summer woodland residents we have. May 14, 1905, we saw but one, and none the 20th-21st of the same month, 1906. May 31 and June 1, 1907, when all migrations were so disorganized, five and eight were noted on the respective days. None were noted the first three days of May, 1908, by Swales and Wallace, though it is true that they were then hardly to be expected as at that time they had not as yet arrived about Detroit. From this data we conclude that but few, if any, breed on the Point, and that practically all seen there are migrants. In the fall they are fluctuatingly common. September 5-15, 1905, they were noted nearly every day, but were more common during the early days of the visit. In 1906 they were common the first three days of September, but a few were noted on the 18th, 20th and 21st. The fall of 1907 but two individuals were seen August 30 and 31. These may have represented breeding birds as the season was late and it was evident the migrants of this species had not yet arrived.

176. **Seiurus noveboracensis*.—Water-Thrush.

The Water-Thrush is, in all probability, a regular, if not a common spring migrant, though we have met it but once during the vernal migrations, May 15, 1905, when several were seen along the inside of the western road on the edge of the marsh. Dr. Brodie reports that, during his July trip of 1879, Water-Thrushes were "very common." Judging from adjoining Michigan standards this was rather surprising, as it is with us but a scarce migrant, and has yet to be discovered breeding with us. On our arrival at the Point, September 4, 1905, there were considerable numbers present, most of which left the night of the 5th, for after that date but few singles

were noted until the 10th, when the last was observed. September 2 and 3, 1906, but one and two were seen on the respective days, and none on the return dates in the middle of the month. One of the interesting features of the fall trip of 1907 was the unprecedented number of this species present. We arrived August 24, and the 26th several were noted, and the next day the species became abundant, remaining so until the 1st of September, when there was a falling off in numbers, increasing to several the 3d and two the 4th; the species seems then to have departed. During the height of their abundance they were the most conspicuous bird on the Point, and were seen in all kinds of places, and at all times. They were in the low, damp spots in the woods, in the high walnut timber, and in the red cedar thickets. They were common everywhere. We found them in the last outlying brush pile near the end of the final sand spit, and in patches of weeds and cottonwoods along the eastern sand dune, near Grubb's fish house. It was no uncommon sight to have four or five in the same field of vision, besides others that could be heard and not seen. Indeed it was rare when we could get out of sight or hearing of at least one individual, for any appreciable length of time. They uttered no song, but constantly gave vent to their characteristic short "chup." It is not improbable that this flight of Water-Thrushes is of somewhat regular occurrence on the Point. Brodie's statement before quoted rather substantiates this. As has been before mentioned, the migrations were late in starting in the fall of 1907, and this would explain why we had not met the species commonly before, in other years.

177. **Sciurus motacilla*.—Louisiana Water-Thrush.

Contrary to our expectations we have found this species the rarer of the two Water-Thrushes on the Point. In adjoining Michigan localities this is the common form as migrant, and the only breeder, as so far recorded. On the Point, however, we regard it as quite rare. Our only date for the species in the locality being one seen by Saunders, August 28, 1907.

178. **Geothlypis agilis*.—Connecticut Warbler.

It seems to be the general impression among the ornithologists of this section that the Connecticut Warbler has much increased in numbers in the last decade or so. However that may be, whether due to real greater abundance or to observers knowing better where to seek and what to look for, they have advanced their apparent status from one of the rarest to a barely scarce species. This is true not only of Pelee, but of other surrounding territory. Saunders was the first to call attention to the number of Connections on the Point when he reported them as "Quite common for a few days in June (1884) (Auk II, 1885, 1-307) as a ground feeder in dry places where

on above trip several were procured." He also states in private correspondence that he found them "Quite common May 30 to June 4, 1884," thus locating the dates more exactly. May 14, 1905, we saw two on our walk in along the east road. May 20-21, 1906, none were observed; but the 30th of the same month the succeeding spring three were noted. In the fall we have found the species still more abundant. In September, 1905, six and two were noted or taken the 5th and 6th, and another one the 10th. The first three days of September, 1906, it was almost common and we were able to secure as many specimens as we had any desire for. They haunted the damp tangle bordering the eastern beach near Gardner's and along the Cross-road, and were still more frequently met with in the beds of Jewel-weed, closely adjoining, in the open spots of the woods. By remaining quiet in such places we were able to observe this interesting species at will. Though naturally shy when we were moving about, when the observer remained perfectly quiescent they would approach almost within reach of the hand. As far as we heard, they remained very quiet, uttering but the most commonplace little cheeps and those but rarely. On our return visit the middle of the same month we noted but two single individuals on the 17th and 18th. The fall of 1907, though we were present the first few days of September, the time of their great abundance the preceding year, owing to the general lateness of the early migrations, they had not put in an appearance, as a species, up to the date of our departure, September 6, though one was observed by Wood in a brush pile at the base of the final sandspit September 1st. This fall there were no such masses of Jewel-weed anywhere to be seen, and this may have had something to do with their non-appearance, the early migrants, missing the congenial quarters of last year, passed on across the lake without lingering.

179. **Oporornis philadelphia*.—Mourning Warbler.

The Mourning Warbler is a rather uncommon migrant. In fact, of late years, it has decreased so as to be even less common than the preceding species. This condition, however, is not peculiar to Point Pelee, but applies equally to our Detroit stations. None were noted May 13-14, 1905, and but one May 21, of the succeeding year. May 31 and June 1, 1907, however, we were more fortunate and five and one were noted on the respective days. They sang freely with a song much similar in quality to that of the Connecticut, but hardly as throaty, and differently accented. Fall dates on this species are difficult to get and greatly to be desired. We always supposed that they slipped through very early and so passed unobserved. This has been corroborated by the data we have been able to gather the last two years at Pelee. Keays noted one September 17, 1901, and we took another September 3, 1906, with the Connecticuts, in the Jewel-

weed before spoken of. In 1907 two were taken August 27, one the 30th, and another the 31st. The last one was observed September 2. Seeing that the migrations were late this year, it is more than likely that the Mourning Warbler normally passes through about the third week in August, and it is one of the earliest migrants to be looked for in fall.

The juvenile fall Mourning Warbler closely resembles the young Connecticut, but can be readily distinguished from it by the yellow and greyish suffusion over the throat and foreneck.

180. **Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*.—Northern Yellow-throat.

The Yellow-throat has been common on all May visits, but of peculiar occurrence in fall. In 1905 six were observed on the first day of our arrival, September 4, and then no more until the 14th, when they became common. In 1906, they were very common the first three days of September, but on our return trip they were far less abundant, and but two or three were noted the 15th, 17th, 18th, and six the 19th. One was still present this year as late as October 14. From August 24 to September 6, 1907, none were observed at all. The only obvious explanation of this erratic procedure is that either few or no Yellow-throats breed on the Point, or else that the summer residents depart early in the fall, and that at the time of our arrival and stay in 1907 the migrants had not yet arrived. This species remains with us usually until well into October, but all our fall data at Pelee points to the conclusion that there is a strong migrational movement among them, beginning the latter part of August.

181. **Icteria virens*.—Yellow-breasted Chat.

Point Pelee is the only locality in Canada where the Yellow-breasted Chat is any more than a rare accidental straggler. How far its range here extends inland we are unable to state, as our work has never extended inland beyond the base of the Point. The first observation on the Chat in Canada was likely made here, as Dr. Brodie says of his July trip of 1879,—“A specimen recently killed was brought to me by school children. The bird had flown in through an open window of the school and was killed against the glass in an opposite window.” June 6, 1884, Saunders secured specimens as recorded by Macoun in his *Birds of Canada*. May 13, 1905, we found several pairs in a waste clearing, grown up to bushes, near the base of the Point, and secured one and the next day another by the road along the edge of the marsh on the east side. May 20-21, 1906, two and one were observed or taken beyond Gardner's place on the respective days. May 31, 1907, three more were observed in about the same locality. Swales and Wallace saw one May 3, 1908. This is a species that departs early in the season and

drifts away so quietly as to be rarely noted on the fall migrations. In the spring no bird could be noisier or more conspicuous in its chosen haunts, but by the middle of July it relapses into silence and is seldom noted thereafter. We have consequently never seen the species on any of our fall trips, as it likely departed considerably before our earliest autumn trip.

182. **Wilsonia pusilla*.—Wilson's Warbler.

A regular and not uncommon migrant, spring and fall. May 13-14, 1905, none were seen; in 1906 one was observed May 20; and eight May 31, 1907. September 6, 1905, seven were noted. They increased to common on the 8th, and then diminished to one the 15th the day of our departure. In 1906, one and one was present September 1 and 3, and two more the 20th. The species put in an appearance in 1907 August 12, and gradually increased in numbers until September 4, when fifteen were listed. They were still present in some numbers when we left the 6th.

183. **Scotophaga ruticilla*.—American Redstart.

Practically common on all seasonable visits, except that of May 3-4, 1908, when most birds were late in arriving, and this was one that had not as yet put in an appearance. The only peculiarity in their numbers as noted at the Point is the usual great increase the first few days of September over later conditions. In 1905 they were much more common September 5 and 6 than they were thereafter. In 1906 they were very abundant the first three days of the month, but on the return trip, the 15th-21st, we saw none until the 17th, and then they were but fairly common, to our departure. In 1907 they were present on our arrival, August 24, increasing gradually to common the 28th, and remained so with small fluctuations until our departure, September 6.

[TO BE CONCLUDED.]

ALL DAY WITH THE BIRDS.

NEW BREMEN, OHIO, May 14, 1908.

From 3 a. m. to 4:30 a. m., trees and fields in and around New Bremen. Drive 4:30 a. m. to 5:10 a. m. four miles to northwest of New Bremen. Large woods of 80 acres worked till 8:10 a. m., then drive four miles farther northwest to southeast corner of Grand Reservoir, on and around Grand Reservoir till 4 p. m., then drive southeast three miles to a large woods till 6 p. m., then home by same road as in the morning; home at 7:20 p. m. Loss, one hour for hitching, feeding and luncheon, spending fifteen hours afield. Temperature rather warm. A few insignificant showers at 4 p. m. and 12:30 p. m. Sun rose fully, but sky soon overcast. This continued alternately throughout the day. Surprise of the day: the Tern's on the Reservoir. Disappointments: missing the Kinglets, the