

THE PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.

Several years ago, while taking a walk, as usual with bird glass in hand, a small bird, warbler size, caught my eye as it flitted about a bush by the side of the track. Its yellow color and the absence of distinct markings, provoked my curiosity, but a search, through both my memory and my books, revealed nothing that answered to the description unless it was the Prothonotary Warbler, and I scarcely dared call it that, for I could find no record of that bird nearer than the western part of the state. The section was swampy and near the margin of Bass Lake, about three miles from this place. I did not make a record of the date of this observance, but should say it was probably the spring of 1907.

June 12, 1910, Mrs. L. E. Parsons and I were at another part of the same swamp, when we found a bird that I recognized at once as the same as the one above referred to and which we both decided must be the Prothonotary Warbler. Again in 1912, June 9th, we were bird hunting in another section, three or four miles southwest of the first mentioned station, when we discovered another specimen of our warbler, and were this time quite sure we were near its nest, and watched it for some time, but could not locate the nest, though our bird was apparently bringing food. This was also a swampy spot, being at the base of a rocky bank where there were many springs. Since that time I have not again seen the bird, though I have been in the Bass Lake region many times. I shall watch for it again this year.

I note by the Wilson Bulletin that this warbler has been seen a number of times recently at Oberlin vicinity and at Huron. Undoubtedly it is working north and east in the state.

ORANGE COOK.

Chardon, Ohio.

THE BEWICK WREN.

On the 18th of April, last year, I was hunting near an old orchard, when a small wrenlike bird, flitting about in a rail fence, attracted my attention. I soon decided it was a stranger to me, for while its actions were decidedly wrenlike and there was the familiar barring on some parts of the bird, there was a longer and different shaped tail, and very distinct white spots on the outer feathers. After following the fence for ten or twelve rods, during which time it allowed me good opportunities for observing its actions and markings, it mounted to near the top of a small tree and gave me a specimen of its vocal powers. Its song was quite different from the House Wren, and to my taste, more pleasing.

A comparison of my findings with the book descriptions left no doubt that I had seen the Bewick Wren and heard its song. So far as I can learn this is also a new record for Geauga County.

ORANGE COOK.

Chardon, Ohio.

A BIRD STORY FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

(Substantially as related to me by Nathaniel Heyward of Oakley.)

Scene: A rice plantation. Cast: Pickaninny, his mammy, crane (*Florida caerulea*), moonshine (*Ionornis martinica*). Business: An ancient muzzle-loading musket of erratic tendencies, the ammunition more dubious still.

A small negro boy climbed one day to the top of the levee in front of his cabin home. From this point he spied at the edge of the locker bay a crane and a moonshine side by side. Pickaninny at once crouched and skedaddled back down the slope to get the always-loaded family musket. Now he returned to the point of vantage, Mammy lending moral support from the cabin door. Pointing the musket over the levee, Pickaninny took long and careful aim, then pulled the trigger. Eventually the hammer snapped. Mammy now encouraged him by shouting, "Hol er stedly, son, til she go off." During this interval the crane became vexed at moonshine and struck viciously at it with his beak. At last the musket discharged with a resounding "pow" and the moonshine fell over dead. "Dar," said the crane, "I done kill dat moonshine."

W. L. M.

BIRDS OF 1915: TOO FEW AND TOO MANY.

So newhere in the Mississippi Valley some one must have found the spring migration interesting. That it was not so in northeastern Iowa seems to have been due to the weather coming in wholesale sized installments. March, with continuously too low temperature, followed by a dry April, with high south winds and summer heat on several days, tended to hurry northward without loiterings the birds due the last of March and during April. The unseasonable warmth of April was followed by a wintry May. Seemingly as a result of these combinations very few of the birds that pass to more northerly breeding ranges were seen.

A comparison of the median dates for ten years of the first arrivals of twenty-four of our commonest birds with their dates for 1915 shows a retardation in the first half of the season, and an acceleration in the second half, except that the Killdeer and the