

Sparrow Hawk, American Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl?, \*Screech Owl, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Belted Kingfisher, Hairy Woodpecker, \*Southern Downy Woodpecker, \*Pileated Woodpecker (six nests have been located this season; two sets of eggs have been taken, one clutch of four and one of five), \*Red-bellied Woodpecker, \*Red-headed Woodpecker, \*Northern Flicker, Chuck-will's-widow, \*Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, \*Blue Jay, \*American Crow, \*Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbird, \*Bronzed Grackle, \*Southern Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole, \*Orchard Oriole, Grasshopper Sparrow, \*Field Sparrow, \*Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, \*Cardinal, Blue Grossbeak, \*Indigo Bunting, \*Summer Tanager, \*Purple Martin, Rough-winged Swallow, Migrant Shrike, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Maryland Yellow-throat, \*Yellow-breasted Chat, Oven-bird?, \*Mockingbird, \*Catbird, \*Brown Thrasher, \*Bewick Wren, \*Tufted Titmouse, \*Chickadee, \*Wood Thrush, \*Southern Robin, \*Bluebird.

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#### THE PRAIRIE WARBLER

In ten or twelve years of bird study it had never been my privilege to see a Prairie Warbler. On August 13, 1917, while spending the day at Sulphur Lick Springs, Ross County, Ohio, a friend and I were looking for birds as usual, when we suddenly came upon what we recognized at first glance to be a male Prairie Warbler. He was not shy and we succeeded in getting near enough to see that he did not have the salmon patch on the back, but upon looking it up found that Prairies do not always show that color in the early fall. As "Birds of Ohio" by Dawson says "not known to breed in Ohio" and also an early fall migrant, we were not sure but it might be a migrant at this date.

On June 11, 1919, two other men and I were walking over the hills of Ross county, Ohio, near Bainbridge, probably then ten miles from Sulphur Lick Springs where we had previously seen the Prairie Warbler, when I heard a new song which I knew at once to be the song of a Warbler, but a new one to me. It sounded but a short distance away and I excused myself and started in the direction of the song. To my delight it flew toward me and alighted in a bush not more than twenty feet away. Behold! a male Prairie Warbler in all his beauty, threw back his head and sang! A song reminding me very much of the Blue-wing a little more musical and having more volume. In walking probably a mile on that hillside, I heard the song of as many as ten or twelve.

There being so many in one place and at that date, I knew

that I had discovered the nesting place of the Prairie Warbler in Ohio.

But not content without further facts, on July 6 Mrs. Henderson, Ted and I started for the hills of Ross County, a distance of some forty miles of very hilly roads. We arrived about noon at this farm, and after climbing the high hill or near mountain, and reaching the far side of the hill we were almost exhausted, for it was excessively hot. The hillside was steep, facing the direct rays of the sun and the undergrowth was not large enough to provide shade, so we had to grin and bear it as long as we could. Reaching the vicinity of the former visit, we heard the song and soon located a male Prairie. At this place the timber and undergrowth was too thick to follow so we went farther, hearing the song frequently.

On a large hillside, which had been cleared of timber several years before and allowed to grow up again in blackberry bushes and undergrowth of from three to ten feet high, was an excellent place for nesting and they evidently like a warm place. It was here that we heard them most. Hearing one near us we located him in a bush fifteen feet away about two feet from the ground with a worm in his mouth. We were so delighted, for certainly we were going to find a nest with young. He sang with the worm in his mouth just the same. He disappeared in a clump of bushes near by and in a few seconds came out without the worm and flew away. As we approached the bush we saw another Warbler not so highly colored as the male, that flew away in the direction of the male, and we felt sure from the color and the mode of flight and actions it must be a nearly full fledged young. We were unable to find any trace of a nest so we concluded that the male was feeding this youngster.

As we had spent so much time on this hillside in the boiling hot sun, without water, we felt we could stand it no longer and left, without actually seeing the nest, but certainly convinced we had definitely located the nesting place of the Prairie Warbler in Ohio. We now have no doubt that the first one we had seen at Sulphur Lick Springs two years before was a summer resident.

Again on May 30, 1920, we were at Fort Hill, Highland County, this State, probably ten miles from the places mentioned above but in the same range of hills. We were on the lookout for strangers in our local ornithology. We had earlier heard notes in this section that had puzzled us but failed to locate the author on this trip. We made the second trip on June 13. While hunting on a hillside near the fort we heard a Prairie singing. We went in the direction of the song and soon found ourselves in the midst of dozens of them, singing everywhere, males and females. Evidently they were not nesting yet as we could not locate a single nest, but there they were, perfectly at home in

practically the same surroundings we had found them in before, an open hillside of briars and second growth, ground that had been cleared years before and allowed to grow up again, facing the south.

We moved on probably two miles in the same range of hills and stopped along the road in a cool shady place for lunch. In the trees and bushes all around us were singing Prairie Warblers, dozens of them, on the same kind of a hillside, except probably a few larger trees. Prairie Warblers, instead of being strangers in this part of the state suddenly became common. But no where else have we ever seen the Prairie Warbler. If any of the readers of this magazine should know of their nesting in Ohio we would be pleased to know of it.

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#### THE MEADOWLARK AS A CONVERSATIONALIST

The first thing one usually notices about a bird is its notes, plumage or a peculiar habit. These things take first place in memory. A bird's song is frequently its most prominent and pleasing characteristic, and were it not for it a great many birds would never be noticed by the majority of people.

Much has been written in praise of America's bird singers; some poets and authors praise one bird, while others laud another. In my estimation the Meadowlark and certain members of the Thrasher family rank very near first as singers, but I am unable to say which is really the best. However, I believe the Meadowlark's song is the most appreciated, for he comes early in the spring, when there are few birds with us, and it is very doubtful whether any of the later birds can equal his song in either quality or variety.

A study of the Meadowlark's musical vocabulary is a very fascinating one and does not require a great deal of effort, providing, of course, one lives near a region of prairie land within the Meadowlark's range. In the spring months go to a sizable meadow, or better, to a slough where slough grass and other vegetation grow in rank profusion. It is here the Meadowlark is found. If you are a farmer and your work lies nearby, you are indeed fortunate, for several weeks may be profitably spent in such a location before all of the Meadowlarks' songs will be heard.

The Meadowlark is a great conversationalist. He talks to you from morning till night; it matters not what the weather—storm and sunshine are the same. He sings from tree, ground, or in the air, but a fence post, when available, seems to be his favorite perch. Except in infrequent cases, every Meadowlark