

edged with light grey; tail blackish-brown, the two outer feathers on each side almost entirely white, the next with a white patch on the inner web.

Male 5, wing $2\frac{8}{12}$.

Columbia river. Migratory.

THE BLACK-THROATED BLUE WOOD-WARBLER.

SYLVICOLA CANADENSIS, Linn.

PLATE XCV.—MALE AND YOUNG.

I have met with this species in every portion of the Southern and Western States, where, however, it is seen only in the early part of spring and in autumn, on its passage to and from its summer residence. In South Carolina it arrives about the 25th of March, and becomes more abundant in April; but it has left that country by the 10th of May. During its stay there, it keeps in deep woods, where it may be seen passing among the boughs, at a height of from ten to twenty feet from the ground.

Proceeding eastward, we find it more numerous, but residing only in the depths of the morasses and swampy thickets. I saw many individuals of the species in the Great Pine Forest of Pennsylvania, after which I traced it through the upper parts of the State of New York into Maine, the British Provinces, and the Magdeleine Islands, in the Bay of St. Lawrence. In Newfoundland I saw none, and in Labrador only a dead one, dry and shrivelled, deposited like a mummy in the fissure of a rock, where the poor bird had fallen a victim to the severity of the climate, from which it had vainly endeavoured to shelter itself.

I am indebted to the generous and most hospitable Dr. MACCULLOCH of Halifax for the nest and eggs of this Warbler, which had been found by his sons, who are keen observers of birds. The nest is usually placed on the horizontal branch of a fir-tree, at a height of seven or eight feet from the ground. It is composed of slips of bark, mosses, and fibrous roots, and is lined with fine grass, on which is laid a warm bed of feathers. The eggs, four or five in number, are of a rosy tint, and, like those of most other *Sylviæ*, scantily sprinkled with reddish-brown at the larger end. Only one brood is raised in a season. The young, when fully fledged, resemble their

parents in the colours of their plumage, which, however, is mixed with duller tints, the differences indicative of the sex being already observable.

The Black-throated Blue Warbler is an expert catcher of flies, pursues insects to a considerable distance in all directions, and in seizing them snaps its bill so as to produce a clicking sound. It now and then alights on a low plant, such as that represented in the plate, and moves along the branches searching for pupæ, ants, and insects. I have never heard its love-song, but its common note is a rather melancholy *cheep*. I am inclined to believe that it breeds in the State of Maine, having seen several individuals of both sexes not far from Eastport, in the beginning of June 1833, when several other species had nests.

The birds represented in Plate 148 of my large edition as *Sylvia sphagnosa*, are the young of the Black-throated Blue Warbler, the female of which resembles them so much that I looked upon it as of a species distinct from the male. I have no doubt that this error originated with WILSON, who has been followed by all our writers. Now, however, the *Sylvia* or *Sylvicola sphagnosa* of BONAPARTE, which he altered from WILSON's *S. pusilla*, must be erased from our Fauna. This bird extends to the head waters of the Missouri, but is not mentioned as occurring in the Fur Countries. I found it abundant on my way to the Texas in the beginning of April; I have also seen it plentiful in June about Boston, where, however, it does not breed. Of this fact also I gave the first intimation to the Prince of Musignano.

MOTACILLA CANADENSIS, Linn. Syst. Nat., vol. i. p. 334.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, *Sylvia canadensis*, Wils. Amer. Orn., vol. ii. p. 115. Male.

SYLVIA CANADENSIS, Bonap. Syn., p. 84. Male.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, *Sylvia canadensis*, Nutt. Man., vol. i. p. 398. Male.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, *Sylvia canadensis*, Aud. Orn. Biog., vol. ii. p. 309. Male.

PINE-SWAMP WARBLER, *Sylvia pusilla*, Wils. Amer. Orn., vol. v. p. 100. Young.

SYLVIA SPHAGNOSA, Bonap. Syn., p. 85. Young.

PINE-SWAMP WARBLER, *Sylvia sphagnosa*, Nutt. Man., vol. i. p. 406. Young.

PINE-SWAMP WARBLER, *Sylvia sphagnosa*, Aud. Orn. Biog., vol. ii. p. 279. Female and Young. Vol. v. p. 458.

Wings rather long, with the third quill longest, the second almost equal, the fourth longer than the first; tail even. Male dull light blue above, white beneath; frontal band, cheeks, throat, and sides, black; a white patch on the wing formed by the bases of the primaries; outer three tail-feathers with a patch of white on the inner web near the end, all the rest with a touch of the same. Female greenish-olive above, light dull yellow below, with a less extended white patch on the wing, the white on the tail unobscured. Young similar to the female.

Male, 5, 7½.

From Texas northward. Migratory. Abundant.

THE CANADIAN COLUMBINE.

AQUILEGIA CANADENSIS, Willd. Sp. Pl., vol. ii. p. 1247. *Pursch*, Flor. Amer. Sept., vol. ii. p. 372.—*POLYANDRIA PENTAGYNIA*, Linn.—*RANUNCULACEÆ*, Juss.

This species, which has the flowers of a bright red mixed with yellow, and is characterized by having the horns of the nectaries or petals straight, grows in the crevices of rocks, and in dry places near rivulets.

THE BLACK-AND-YELLOW WOOD-WARBLER.

+ *SYLVICOLA MACULOSA*, Lath.

PLATE XCVI.—MALE, FEMALE, AND YOUNG.

Few of our Warblers have a more varied plumage, or are more animated in their motions, than this beautiful little bird. In Louisiana it is met with now and then as early as the middle of March, but there its occurrence appears to be merely accidental, as is indeed the case in Kentucky, Ohio, or any portion of the Middle States, through which a few are to be seen on their passage to more northern regions. In autumn I have seen them in great numbers near the Pocano Mountains, accompanied by their young, proceeding southward, as I thought, along the direction of that range. While in Maine, on my way to Labrador, in the month of May, I observed them to be very abundant by the roads, in the fields, the low woods, and even the orchards and gardens. In fact, so numerous were those interesting birds, that you might have fancied that an army of them had assembled to take possession of the country. Scarce a leaf was yet expanded, large icicles hung along the rocky shores, and I could not but feel surprised at the hardihood of the little adventurers. At night they roosted in numbers in the small evergreen trees, and by day they were to be seen flitting about wherever the sun shone. If the morning was cold, you might catch them with the hand, and several specimens, procured in that manner by children, were brought to



Black-throated Blue Wood-Warbler.

1. Male 2. Female.

Canadian Columbine



Audubon, John James. 1841. "The Black-Throated Blue Wood-Warbler, *Sylvicola canadensis*, Linn. [Pl. 95]." *The birds of America : from drawings made in the United States and their territories* 2, 63–65.

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