

prairies, in the barrens of Kentucky, and in Louisiana, excepting in the swamps, it being more inclined to grow in dry soil and stiff grounds.

PRAIRIE WARBLER, *Sylvia minuta*, Wils. Amer. Orn., vol. iii. p. 87.

SYLVIA DISCOLOR, Bonap. Syn., p. 83.

PRAIRIE WARBLER, *Sylvia discolor*, Nutt. Man., vol. i. p. 294.

PRAIRIE WARBLER, *Sylvia discolor*, Aud. Orn. Biog., vol. i. p. 76.

Wings rather short, with the outer four quills nearly equal, the second and third longest; tail emarginate and rounded. Male with the upper parts yellowish-green, the back spotted with chestnut-red; lower parts, and a band over the eye, bright yellow; two bands of dull yellow on the wing; outer four tail-feathers with a white patch on the inner web; a small streak before and behind the eye, one on the cheek, a spot on the side of the neck, and oblong markings on the sides, black. Female similar, but paler, especially beneath, and without the black streaks on the side of the head.

Male, 5, 7.

From Texas to Massachusetts. Migratory. Abundant.

BLUE-MOUNTAIN WARBLER.

+SYLVICOLA MONTANA, *Wils.*

PLATE XCVIII.—MALE.

It is somewhat strange, that among the numerous species of birds that visit the United States, a few should have been met with only in rare instances. The present Warbler is in this predicament, as it does not appear that many specimens have been obtained excepting that from which this figure and description were taken. For many years I never met with Bewick's Wren, which is now, however, known to be abundant on the mountains of Virginia, and elsewhere in our Middle and Southern Districts, and still more so along the Columbia river. The same was the case with Henslow's Bunting, which has become a common bird in the State of New Jersey, where it breeds, and in South Carolina and the Floridas, where it spends the winter. Of Townsend's Bunting the only specimen as yet procured is in my possession; and

it is only of late years that Macgillivray's Finch has appeared in numbers in the neighbourhood of Charleston. Swainson's Warbler, at one time scarce in South Carolina, where it was discovered by my good friend Dr. BACHMAN, has since been procured as far eastward as the vicinity of Boston by THOMAS M. BREWER, JUNR., Esq. The Pipirie Flycatcher was not known to exist eastward of the Floridas until after I had found it there, although now it is not a scarce species, being found breeding in the very heart of the city of Charleston. Traill's Flycatcher, which I first discovered on the Arkansaw river, is now known to abound on the Columbia river. No other person has observed the Rocky Mountain Wren in any part of the country eastward of that great chain besides Dr. BACHMAN, who shot one within a few miles of Charleston. I might mention several other species, which at one time were extremely rare in the United States, but are now abundant in many of our districts; but prefer returning to the Blue-Mountain Warbler, which it has not been my good fortune to meet with, although it would be in no degree surprising to find it a constant visiter to some portions of our vast country yet untrodden by the ornithologist. My figure was taken from a specimen lent to me by the Council of the Zoological Society of London, and which had come from California.

ALEXANDER WILSON, to whom we are indebted for our knowledge of this pretty bird, says that it "was first discovered near that celebrated ridge, or range of mountains, with whose name I have honoured it. Several of these solitary Warblers remain yet to be gleaned up from the airy heights of our alpine scenery, as well as from the recesses of our swamps and morasses, whither it is my design to pursue them by every opportunity. Some of these, I believe, rarely or never visit the lower cultivated parts of the country, but seem only at home among the gloom and silence of those dreary solitudes. The present species seems of that family, or subdivision, of the Warblers, that approach the Flycatchers, darting after flies wherever they see them, and also searching with great activity among the leaves. Its song was a feeble screech, three or four times repeated.

"This species is four inches and three-quarters in length; the upper parts a rich yellow-olive; front, cheeks, and chin yellow; also the sides of the neck; breast and belly pale yellow, streaked with black or dusky; vent plain pale yellow; wings black; first and second row of coverts broadly tipped with pale yellowish-white, tertials the same; the rest of the quills edged with whitish; tail black, handsomely rounded, edged with pale olive; the two exterior feathers on each side white on the inner vanes from the middle to the tips, and edged on the outer side with white; bill dark brown, legs and feet purple-brown; soles yellow; eye dark hazel.

"This was a male. The female I have never seen."

BLUE-MOUNTAIN WARBLER, *Sylvia montana*, Wils. Amer. Orn., vol. v. p. 113.

SYLVIA TIGRINA, Bonap. Syn., p. 83; but not of Gmelin or Latham, as the figure of Edwards, to which reference is made, has the tail not rounded, but emarginate.

BLUE-MOUNTAIN WARBLER, *Sylvicola montana*, Nutt. Man. 2nd Ed., p. 442.

BLUE-MOUNTAIN WARBLER, *Sylvia montana*, Aud. Orn. Biog., vol. v. p. 294.

No bristles at the base of the bill; wings rather short, the third and fourth quills longest; tail much rounded. Upper parts light greenish-olive; a band across the forehead, one over the eye, the cheeks, throat, fore part and sides of neck bright yellow; the rest of the lower parts yellowish-white; the sides marked with narrow longitudinal dusky streaks; wings dusky brown, all the feathers edged with yellowish-white, the secondary quills more broadly, the first row of small coverts and the secondary coverts tipped with white, forming two conspicuous bands; tail brownish-black, the feathers edged with yellowish-green, the two outer on each side white in their terminal half.

Male, $4\frac{1}{12}$, wing $2\frac{6}{12}$.

Blue Mountains of Virginia, and west of the Rocky Mountains.

CONNECTICUT WOOD-WARBLER.

+ SYLVICOLA AGILIS, Wils.

PLATE XCIX.—MALE AND FEMALE.

I procured the pair represented in the plate, on a fine evening, nearly at sun-set, at the end of August, on the banks of the Delaware river, in New Jersey, a few miles below Camden. When I first observed them, they were hopping and skipping from one low bush to another, and among the tall reeds of the marsh, emitting an often-repeated *tweet* at every move. They were chasing a species of spider which runs nimbly over the water, and which they caught by gliding over it, as a Swallow does when drinking. I followed them for about a hundred yards, when, watching a fair opportunity, I shot both at once. The weather was exceedingly sultry; and although I outlined both by candle-light that evening, and finished the drawing of them next morning by breakfast time, they had at that early hour become putrid, so that their skins could not be preserved. On opening them I counted upwards of fifty of the spiders mentioned above, but found no appearance of



Blue Mountain Warbler.

Male

Drawn from Nature by J.J. Audubon. F.R.S.F.L.S.

Lith^d Printed & Col^d by J.T. Bowen Philad^a



Audubon, John James. 1841. "Blue-Mountain Warbler, *Sylvicola montana*, Wils. [Pl. 98]." *The birds of America : from drawings made in the United States and their territories* 2, 69–71. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.319211>.

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