

throated blue warbler has probably not altered much since the days of Audubon, but our knowledge of its habits in this respect become more extensive and varied ; Audubon probably never saw more than one or two nests of this species, and these were probably placed in the situations he describes. Now, it is well known that it nests in various situations ; and from my earliest recollections of this species, I have noted it as a songster, and as warbling its not unpleasing melody as constantly then, as it is now known to do—on an early summer day—in the particular woodland, where it has its haunts and home. And in contradistinction to the time when Alex. Wilson wandered and wrote, there are now many persons in the Canadian provinces devoting the keenest attention—without mercenary motives—to the appearance and life-history of the feathered race ; and the results of their observations is considerably effecting the ornithological literature both of Canada and the United States ; and when Venner wrote the article from which we have quoted ; he confessedly knew little of either the habits or the vocal acquirements of this species, or he would not have characterized it as a songless bird.

But though this little wildwood musician emits its song with clearness and animation, especially for the first few weeks after its arrival from the sunny south, yet it must be admitted that its song notes are not remarkable for the sweetness of their melody, for in its refrain there seems a melancholy plaintiveness, as though the little performer was complaining that it was seeking in vain for something that it had loved but lost. Yet, as adding a varying strain to the great orchestra of the wildwood wilderness, it must ever be interesting to the lovers of bird music, and the students of animated nature.

The male of this species is about five inches in length, and in his spring plumage of a uniform slaty blue color on the upper parts, the throat is black and the lower parts white, the plumage of the female is of a duller hue.