

In an article on the "Wood Warblers of the Vicinity of Montreal," by H. Venner, that writer speaking of this species, says : " This delightful little warbler is exceedingly rare in Lower Canada. Although nothing of a songster, its colors are very bright and rich, and its plumage in general neat. A small chirup is all that is heard from him as he flies from bush to bush. This warbler is seldom met with in our vicinity ; one was shot there about four years ago, and I have not heard of one been seen since. Our museum has a very good specimen of this rare bird. Certainly it does not breed here regularly, if at all. A stray individual may sometimes remain to rear its brood on our mountain, but not often. Audubon traced this warbler through the upper part of New York, into Maine, the British provinces, and the Magdalen Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. According to his account the nest is usually placed on the horizontal branch of a fir tree, seven or eight feet from the ground, and is composed of strips of bark, mosses, and fibrous roots, lined with fine grass and an inner lining of feathers. When this warbler is feeding among the branches of a tree, one can hear quite distinctly the snapping of its bill, as it pursues the insects from twig to twig. It is very active, but as we mentioned before, has no real song. Not even the pairing season does its notes become more musical. Before dismissing this interesting bird, I may be allowed to quote a few lines that Wilson has written respecting it. He says : " It is very probable that they breed in Canada, but the summer residents among the feathered race are little known, or attended to. The habits of the bear, the deer, or the beaver, are are much more interesting to those people ; and for a good substantial reason, because more lucrative ; and unless there should arrive an order from England for a cargo of the skins of warblers and fly-catchers, sufficient to make them an object worth speculation, we are likely to know as little hereafter as at present.

After reading the above article in the light of more recent discoveries ; and scientific facts, the field ornithologist is likely to be considerably surprised at the limited amount of knowledge possessed by " the fathers " of American ornithology regarding many of our woodland birds. The nesting habits of the black-