

and therefore, it takes more or less patient observation to be able to tell them by their notes.

Some of our prettiest, but at the same time smallest and most elusive birds are the warblers. On some days the open woods are full of them. They are abundant and pretty, yet most people never see them, even if they are at home in their orchards, because they are so small and restless, always moving about. Most of them are so beautifully and conspicuously marked, that if a person once knows when and where to look for them he can readily become acquainted with them. But it takes much patience and stretching and twisting of necks to accomplish it. Therefore, I soon after undertaking it came to the conclusion that it would be advantageous to be able to recognize a warbler by its song or rather lisp—*for that is in many cases all, despite their name as a class—that their musical efforts amount to.* And to aid nature and bird lovers to learn to know and identify warblers is the *raison d'être* of this article.

When I heard a warbler song I did not know, I followed up its owner until I positively identified him, then I tried what syllables would reproduce the impression best, and these I jotted down in my note book on the spot. These first impressions sometimes have to be corrected later on, often the first is as good as the last. This I would advise everybody to do who would learn to know the birds by their song.

The following list is loosely arranged according to the time of appearance of the different species at Ottawa, and to the degree of frequency in which they are generally seen.

BLACK AND WHITE CREEPING WARBLER, *Mniotilta varia*. To be seen in open woods of deciduous trees, creeping around limbs and trunk of trees, not high up; color as implied by name. Song insignificant, a repetition of the syllable *sweet*. One I heard sang: *Switta, switta, switt*. One writer gives its song, *Weachy, weachy, twee, twee, twee, tweet*.

YELLOW WARBLER, *Dendroica aestiva*. This common warbler is entirely yellow, the male having narrow reddish stripes on the lower side, which are apparent only at a near view. This is a bird not so much of the woods as of the open, frequenting trees in fields, along fences and even in cities, where it also nests. Its