

.49. These are of a white colour, thickly spotted with lilac, purple, and brown.

*In general appearance the plumage of both sexes of the Prairie Warbler is much alike, and the colour of the young differs chiefly in being of a duller hue. In length it is nearly five inches, and the extent across the wings about seven inches. The plumage on the upper parts is of a yellow olive hue, with dottings of brick-red on the back, the forehead, and a line on the head; two wing-bars and the whole under parts are a fine yellow. On each side of the head is a three-pointed black mark, with marks of the same hue on the neck and other parts of the body. The places where it is found in the greatest abundance are the middle and southern States, and it passes the winter season on the borders of the Gulf of Mexico and the West India Islands. From this region it begins to move northward in February, and reaches the borders of the Great Lakes in the first week of May. Its general haunts and home is in the sparse low woods, cedar thickets, and old fields grown up with scrub pine. It is remarkable for its peculiar and curious song, and is an expert fly catcher, being constantly in hunt of winged insects after the manner of the redstart and all proper fly-catchers.*

The Prairie Warbler was tolerably well known in the time of Audubon, and Alexander Wilson, in his "American Ornithology," thus records his first impressions regarding the species:—"This pretty little species I first discovered in that singular tract of country in Kentucky, commonly called Barrens. I shot several afterwards in the open woods of the Chactaw-nation, where they were more numerous. They seem to prefer these open plains and thinly wooded tracts, and have this singularity in their manners, that they are not easily alarmed; and they search among the leaves, the most leisurely of any of the tribe I have yet met with, seeming to examine every blade of grass and every leaf, uttering at short intervals a feeble chirr. I have observed one of these birds to sit on the lower branch of a tree for half an hour at a time, and allow me to come up nearly to the foot of the tree without seeming to be in the least disturbed, or to discontinue the regularity of its occasional note. It is slow in its movements and