

WARBLER SONGS AND NOTES.

By REV. G. EIFRIG.

Now that the crows, the vanguard of the annual bird migration from the south, have arrived, and two or three bluebirds even have coyly appeared in a sort of tentative way, to see whether winter would not soon disappear in earnest, we may reasonably expect to soon see larger divisions of the great bird-army. In April the sinister companies and battalions of the blackbirds often make themselves apparent even to the casual observer, the purple and rusty grackles with their discordant gurgling, and the fine redwinged blackbirds with their martial *congarée*. Besides these some larger birds, which however do not make themselves so apparent, will then come, some herons and hawks; also the little trusty phoebe with the plaintive note from which its name is derived. And then comes glorious May, which brings surprises and joys each day in the animal and vegetable kingdoms. Then huge waves of warblers, finches, thrushes, vireos or greenlets, plovers, etc., arrive daily. Then is the time for every one who can, naturalist, professional, amateur or otherwise, lovers of nature and the beauties of it, to arm themselves with an opera glass and lens, and note book, and see, observe, behold and drink in as it were the beauties and lessons and mysteries that nature holds up to our raptured vision. Some of the finest and most interesting objects that we then can and ought to become acquainted with are the birds. Watch them with or without glass, try to impress their chief characteristics on your mind, and if you do not know the bird and are a beginner in bird-craft, look up at home your Bird Neighbors, or some other popular book on birds, and see what the bird you did not know was. And the more you learn thus by your own exertion, which is at the same time pleasure, also healthful to a degree, the more you want to learn and find out; the love of it will grow on you.

After knowing the birds by their color, size, etc., a person should try to attain some proficiency in recognizing them by their songs and other notes. Of course, if all the birds would announce their names as plainly as the chickadee, or the phoebe or bobolink, this would be comparatively easy. However, this is not the case,