

white; the breast and sides tinged with pale yellow.

SEPTEMBER has come, the Golden Rods and Michelmas Daisies are in bloom by the country road sides, or in the open spaces of the woods, and a scarlet leaf or two on the Virginia Creeper, or the soft Maple, already speak to us of approaching autumn. Many of our summer birds are now moving about in little flocks, as if they were gathering themselves and their families together, preparatory to their emigration southwards, and some of our early spring visitors which have been spending their brief season in the far north, it may be on the Saskatchewan, or in the wilds of Labrador, are now again to be seen, flitting about our gardens and shrubberies, where they will tarry for a few days only, before winging their way to the milder region of the Southern States, or the sunny shores of the tropics.

Among these transient visitors, none are more beautiful than the Blackburnian Warbler, (*Dendroica Blackburnia*.) Passing rapidly through this part of Canada during the month of May, on their way to the north, seldom halting more than a few days, and again during this month as they proceed towards the south, making so brief a stay that they are seldom seen, except by those who are on the watch for them. The plumage of the male bird is exceedingly handsome. The upper parts black, streaked with yellowish white. A stripe of rich orange yellow extends from the base of the upper mandible over the eye, and curves down each side of the neck, bounded by a patch of black directly under each eye. The throat and upper part of the breast is a rich fiery coloured orange, lower part of the head dull yellow. Quill feathers black, the outer margined with grey, the inner with white, of which there is a large patch on the wing; the three outer tail feathers on each side are white, excepting an oblong portion towards the end. The song of this little Warbler consists of a very few notes, but is very sweet, and unusually clear and loud for the size of the bird. Its nest or eggs I have never seen.

Almost equally beautiful in plumage, and much more frequently met with than the Blackburnian Warbler, is the black and yellow Wood Warbler, (*Dendroica Maculosa*.) Large numbers of this handsome little bird may be seen flitting about the evergreens in our shrubberies during the latter part of this month. Like so many of the other Warblers, its stay with us is limited to a few days in spring and autumn. Its summers are spent on the shores of Labrador, or in the wilds of the North-West, and its winters in the Southern States. The song of the black and yellow Warbler is both clear and sweet, and may often be heard during its spring visit. Its motions, as it flies from tree to tree, are particularly graceful, its tail being constantly spread out like a fan, and its wings held half open in such a way as to display the beauty of its plumage to the best advantage. It feeds entirely on insects and their larvae,

and not unfrequently it may be seen balancing itself in the air, opposite to the clustering branches of some tree or shrub, and then darting rapidly in among the leaves to seize upon and secure some fluttering insect. The colour of the plumage of this Warbler is ash grey on the upper part of the head and back of the neck, a band of white passes over the eye. Part of the forehead loreal space, and a broad band down the side of the neck, with the forepart of the back and upper tail coverts deep black; the whole of the lower parts a rich yellow, spotted with black; wings and tail feathers brownish black, edged with grey; two white bands on the wings; all the tail feathers, except the two middle ones, with a large patch of white on the inner web at about two-thirds of the length.

The nest of this bird, which has been found in Labrador and on the banks of the Saskatchewan, is said to be composed of moss and lichens, lined with fibrous roots and a great quantity of feathers, and the eggs to be five in number, sprinkled with reddish dots near the larger end.

The black throated green Wood Warbler (*Dendroica Virens*), is occasionally seen through the summer in this part of Canada, but I have never met with a nest of this bird, and I am inclined to believe that the majority of them breed further north. They appear here in little parties of twos and threes on their southward journey in September, and are said to pass their winters within the tropics. Their plumage is very handsome. The male bird has the upper parts a very light yellowish green; the front of the head, a band over the eye, the cheeks and the sides of the neck bright yellow; the front of the neck and upper front of the sides deep black; the rest of the lower parts white, tinged with yellow; quills and tail feathers brownish black, secondary coverts and first row of small coverts largely tipped with white; quills margined with greyish white, as are the tail feathers, of which the greater part of the outer three, and a patch on the inner web of the fourth, are white.

The last of these interesting birds which I shall notice is a beautiful little species, of which I have never been able to procure more than one specimen, and I am not aware whether, like the others I have been describing, it extends its emigrations beyond the confines of Canada. It is met with throughout the Southern and middle States of America, and is said to breed there.

This little creature, the blue and yellow backed Warbler (*Dendroica Pusilla*), is about four inches and a half in length, the plumage on the upper parts light blue, the forepart of the back changing to yellowish green; two broad bands of white on the wing, formed by the tips of the secondary coverts and first row of small coverts; quills and tail feathers dusky, margined with blue; a white spot on the outer three of the latter; throat yellow with whitish patches; breast rich yellow, deepening into orange, and the rest of the lower parts yellowish, fading into white.

G. W. A.

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