

stated effects of the coldness in May. Thus, for the scarlet tanager, I have a record of two days earlier than last year; the nighthawk came on the 16th as usual as though there was no cold weather and dearth of insects. Again, the spotted sandpiper was unusually abundant in June. The purple martin seemed more numerous than usual for a while, the olive-backed thrush was decidedly commoner than usual, and on May 19th, Mr. A. Kingston found the black-throated blue warbler exceedingly numerous in Dow's Swamp, their numbers equaling those of all other birds combined, while a half dozen or so, at most, is the usual number seen together when the migration is normal and at its height. The cedarbird, usually here in March, was not seen by the writer till June 7th, but was in its usual abundance and superabundance in July. And it is just these variations from one year to another, these continual apparent anomalies and surprises that make the work of the ornithologist so interesting and fascinating.

And now comes the harrowing part of the story. The coldness of the season caused a deplorable mortality among birds, especially warblers and swallows. Vegetation was, as already stated, at a standstill for weeks; therefore, the insects, plant lice, etc., that abound on the leaves of trees; moths, gnats, etc., that usually fly about at that time, were absent. On that account there was great suffering among the insect-eating birds that had come, most acute among warblers. They could be seen everywhere, apparently in great distress, wings half opened, often too weak to fly, looking for morsels of food in places where they are otherwise not seen. I saw Canadian and Blackburnian warblers searching for food among tin cans and refuse heaps, on roadsides, unable to fly. A beautiful Cape May warbler, the only one seen by the writer, against dozens other years, was skulking along the fence of a disreputable looking dog pound. The Blackburnians seem to have been the greatest sufferers. Several dead warblers, two tree swallows, a brown creeper, were brought to me by school children, others were brought to the museum, three Blackburnian warblers were found dead by a friend at Germanicus, Renfrew County, and farmers and their children at this place, also at High Falls, Quebec, all told the same story. Some had found two, others as many as five dead warblers; at least, according to the descriptions given, they belonged to this family. I found a dead Blackburnian warbler on the banks of the Lièvre River at High Falls, where, according to the testimony of a farmers' family, they had been very common in May, some not able to fly away and a number found dead. At Germanicus a strange incident was observed. On a farmer's bridge through a swamp a myrtle warbler was in its last agonies, when a robin