

my hands. How convenient to say—"That is a Parula Warbler!" For two or three years after I began preserving specimens, I did not meet with a single example of this bird.

My interest in the species became quickened when I read in *The Auk*, vol. xiii, page 44, Mr. William Brewster's description of a new sub-species to be known as the Northern Parula. To obtain a Parula Warbler would no longer suffice.

From the given range, I surmised ours should be the northern form, but I wished to verify the theory. Since then I have taken one specimen only—an adult ♂ shot in a thick thorn tree in the Thames valley, 16th May, 1899. On my request for the loan of specimens, Mr. W. E. Saunders kindly placed three adult ♂♂ at my disposal.

While the series is much too small to expect very definite conclusions, I offer the following notes on the classification of these four birds.

To briefly summarize Mr. Brewster's comparative diagnosis—the Northern Parula, *Compsothlypis americana usneæ* may be distinguished from typical *C. americana* by the following points: Slightly larger, with shorter bill. Adult ♂ with less yellow on under parts, more black on lores, collar across jugulum broad and black, chest spotted with rich brownish chestnut.

On being compared with my specimen, two of Mr. Saunders's birds are seen to belong to the northern form. His third specimen so closely approaches mine and differs so much from the first two as to afford a rather striking contrast to them. The only feature in which my specimen differs from *C. americana*, is in the extent of the black on lores and malar region. This is more pronounced in mine than in any of the others; in typical *americana* it is less. A row of minute white feathers bordering the yellow on throat may be ascribed to albinism. In all other respects—viz: smaller size, larger and longer bill, amount of yellow, narrowness of collar and diffusion of the chestnut with the yellow of chest—mine agrees completely with the published description of *americana*.

Mr. Saunders's third specimen has unfortunately lost the tip of the bill, but, judging from its size at base, it was apparently larger than in the other two. Mr. Brewster moreover expressly