

Greenwich, Conn., who is well-known to most members at least by name.

A roast Vermont turkey dinner with fresh fruit cocktail, cranberry sauce, vegetables, green salad, strawberry shortcake, and beverage will be served at the annual banquet. The price will be \$5, including gratuity. The box lunch during the field trip will include Virginia ham and chicken sandwiches, cheese crackers, a Delicious apple, and coffee, for \$1.50.

Tickets for both the annual banquet and the field trip box luncheon must be ordered by May 18 at the latest. Send order and remittance to Rockland Audubon Society West Nyack, N. Y. Tickets will be delivered to you when you register at convention headquarters.

Persons who are planning to go on the May 24 field trip must give notice by the previous evening, May 23. This is necessary for proper planning of transportation and leadership.

The annual field trip will be on Sunday, May 24. The Inn will serve breakfast at 5 a. m., and we hope to be on the road before 6. In parties of not more than about four carloads, each with at least one leader and some with auxiliary leaders versed in plants and flowers, the field trips will cover southern Rockland County. At noon, all parties will rendezvous at Stony Point Battlefield Park for a picnic luncheon. The Inn will deliver box lunches to the site — including urns of fresh coffee. In the afternoon, those who wish may continue on a field trip in the northern portion of the county. The interior of the Interstate Park should yield Canada and Blackburnian Warblers on their nesting grounds and probably Brown Creeper and Pileated Woodpecker.

Rockland Audubon Society is making every effort to hold the registration fee to no more than \$1.50. Registration fee will not be required of persons attending only the annual dinner or the field trip, or both. The annual dinner, turkey with all the trimmings, will be \$5 per plate, including gratuity, and the box luncheon for the field trip picnic will be \$1.50 or \$2, yet to be determined. Tickets for both the dinner and the box luncheon must be purchased no later than when you register.

Advance registration at \$1.50 per person may be sent to Mrs. John C. Orth, Trailside Museum, Bear Mountain, N. Y.

Bear Mountain is at the crossroads of U. S. Routes 9-W and 6. It can be reached by West Shore Railroad trains and by the New York - Poughkeepsie buses of the Mohawk Bus Line, as well as by automobile.

THE YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER IN NEW YORK

By KENNETH C. PARKES

The Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) is a species of southeastern North America which has found its way to New York upon a few occasions. The two subspecies which have been reported from our state are the eastern form, *D. d. dominica*, and the so-called Sycamore Warbler, *D. d. albiflora*. These two subspecies breed east and west of the Appalachians, respectively. This paper will summarize the known records of both subspecies in New York, and discuss the problem of subspecific identification in the field.

Dendroica dominica dominica appears to have been collected in New

York three times. The earliest recorded specimen is that listed by Dutcher (1893. *Auk*, 10: 277) and cited by many subsequent authors. It was taken some time in the middle of the last century at Crow Hill, Brooklyn, by John Akhurst. Specimen No. 440264 in the American Museum of Natural History is presumably this same bird. It is labeled merely "Long Island" and is attributed to "N. Pike". John Akhurst was a collector for Col. Nicholas Pike, an important figure in the history of Long Island ornithology. The specimen cited by Dutcher was in the collection of the Long Island Historical Society, and AMNH 440264 bears the label of that institution. It is a male in an excellent state of preservation.

The other two specimens of *D. d. dominica* recorded from New York were taken at Oyster Bay, July 8, 1907 (Eaton, 1914. *Birds of N. Y.*, part 2: 424) and at Sag Harbor, July 15, 1933 (Cruickshank, 1952. *Birds Around N. Y. City*: 394). I have examined neither of these specimens.

I have found the following published sight records of Yellow-throated Warblers; as indicated by Cruickshank (loc. cit.), "it is possible that some of these records refer to the Sycamore Warbler": Prospect Park, April 28-29, 1917; Orient, June 2, 1924; Mamaroneck, May 18-21, 1925; Central Park, April 29-May 1, 1926; Grassy Sprain, May 28, 1933; Hewlett, April 27-28, 1939; Central Park, April 23, 1943; Prospect Park, May 10, 1946; Pelham Bay golf course, April 28, 1951; Far Rockaway, September 16, 1951; Prospect Park, April 23, 1952. It is perhaps noteworthy that only a single fall date is included in this list, although many of us admittedly concentrate on warbler-finding in the spring rather than the fall. I have seen no records from beyond the New York City region except the Spring Lake bird mentioned below.

The Sycamore Warbler, *D. d. albilora*, has been reported twice in New York, both sight records. Wright (1919. *Auk*, 36: 580-581) saw a bird near Spring Lake, northern Cayuga County, May 23, 1919, which he believed to be *albilora*. Cruickshank (loc. cit.) listed a sight record from Prospect Park, Brooklyn, April 30, 1940. There exists a New York specimen of *albilora* which seems to have been generally overlooked. This bird, No. 240958 in the American Museum of Natural History, is a brightly colored female which was found dead in Central Park, New York City, on April 18, 1919. The specimen bears the label of J. M. Valentine, but it is not expressly stated that Valentine was the collector. It would seem highly probable that this bird is the one which was reported as a sight record the day before, listed by Cruickshank (loc. cit.) among the sight records not assigned to either subspecies. The Sycamore Warbler is thus entitled to a place on the list of New York birds according to the standards of those who demand that a specimen must be taken before a species or subspecies may be admitted to full standing.

As indicated by the number of subspecific sight identifications in the literature, there has long existed a widespread opinion that *Dendroica dominica* is one of the few species whose subspecies might safely be identified in the field. Roger T. Peterson, whose general conservatism on the question of subspecific field identification is highly commendable, stated in the text of his book (1947. *Field Guide to the Birds*: 197) that the Sycamore Warbler "can be told at close range by the *white* instead of yellow lores (between eye and bill)." Many field identifications have undoubtedly been made in good faith on this basis; unfortunately Peterson's caution that "this is not a constant character" is buried in an appendix (p. 268). Peterson and several other authors have mentioned that some individuals of *albilora* have distinctly yellow lores. The converse is also true. I examined the extensive series of this species in the American Museum of Natural History, and soon came to the conclusion that the color of the lores, emphasized in so much of the literature, is actually the least satisfactory of the three principal characters which separate *dominica* and *albilora*. Many individuals of *dominica* had so little yellow on the lores that I had to step to the window and examine the birds closely in bright light to detect the yellow tinge. Some of these specimens had originally been identified as *albilora* (obviously on the basis of color of lores) and then reidentified. The lores of these birds would without question appear white under field conditions. In view of the variability of this character, it is unwise to assign an individual bird seen in the field, especially outside the normal range of the species, to a definite subspecific population on the basis of apparent color of lores. It would therefore appear that *dominica* and *albilora* are not separable in the field, since the two more consistent diagnostic characters, size of bill and amount of white on inner webs of rectrices, are comparative and hardly to be observed except by actual measurement.

I am grateful to Dr. John T. Zimmer for permission to report on the specimens of Yellow-throated Warbler in the collections of the American Museum of Natural History.

COOPERATIVE STUDY OF BIRD MIGRATION THROUGH THE USE OF SPRING ARRIVAL DATES

During the spring of 1951, members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology launched a new study of the age-old problem of bird migration. By plotting arrival dates on a map they hoped to discover to what extent spring migration is influenced by the weather and whether or not birds move forward steadily or by occasional long hops.

Observations that spring indicated that the White-throated Sparrow, the only species then under study, moved northward by a series of hops, 7 to 10 days apart and that 300 miles might be covered in one hop. With such distances involved it was decided to increase the area under study. The support of cooperators from the Gulf to southern Canada was enlisted. New species were added — the Mouring Dove, Baltimore Oriole, and Canada Goose.

So encouraging were the results for the spring of 1952 that it was decided greatly to increase the scope of study. For 1953 the help of cooperators