

Thru the Window Pane

by Stephen Sheppard

The family of Wood Warblers live exclusively in the western hemisphere and differs greatly from the rather drab Warblers of Europe and Asia. Wood Warblers are nervous little birds, generally brightly coloured with narrow pointed bills. They are generally insect eaters but a number of species can survive for a considerable time on seeds and fruit in cold weather when insects are not available. Most insects are taken from the leaves of trees in which they feed or from the ground, and on occasion most species will take some flying insects as well.

In almost all species the male and female differ, the male being more dramatic in his brightly colored markings. All moult after nesting and are invariably duller and, in some cases, markedly different from the breeding plumage. Most species, especially those which feed in the leaves, are vivacious, fluttering birds. Those which feed on the ground or on the branches are less so.

There are 115 species of Warblers present at some time of the year in North America, of which 40 visit Canada in the summer. Of these, 27 appear regularly and are present in the northeastern states.

Many species occur in uninhabited areas only briefly on migration, sometimes for only a few days. The peak of northern migration is just after mid-May. In some particularly good viewing areas there are usually more watchers than birds on the mid-May weekend.

Now we are hosts to a multitude of small birds of which most people are completely unaware because of their life style. Their favorite habitat is the tops of tall evergreen trees. The Warblers are essentially strictly insect eating birds of very active habits. Most of them feed and nest among the trees and rarely descend to the ground. Some of them live much upon or near the ground; others creep about the trunks and branches of trees as nimbly as Nuthatches. The majority of them combine, to various degrees, these several habits.

Generally speaking, the Warblers are birds of beautiful plumage, though the beauty lies in the arrangement or patterns of colors and not in their brilliance. Yellow is the most common and characteristic color, though this is

usually complemented by markings or areas of black, gray, olive green or white. There is generally sexual difference of plumage, and very often the young are different from either adult.

Many of the Warblers have attractive songs but the majority at least among North American species, are songsters of very ordinary or interior merit.

The Blackburnian Warbler is one which we see in our area at this time. This tiny bird, barely more than four inches from the tip of the bill to the tip of the tail, is named for a Mrs. Blackburn, an English ornithologist of the last century, to whom a skin was sent from this country for cataloguing.

The throat of the Blackburnian is a brilliant orange fusing to yellow below the eye. With the exception of a tiny yellow spot on the top, the head and most of the back are black. The cheeks are black with a yellow eye stripe above, descending in a jagged line at the sides of the neck. The throat is orange, the breast and abdomen white, the wings and tail black, with a large white patch on the wings. There are black streaks on the flanks. The female is similar but paler in color.

These Warblers are most numerous in mixed forests of hemlock, spruce and various hardwoods. They breed among the oaks and hickories of the Appalachian ridges, but in the north nest in hemlocks and other evergreens. In his summer territory, he sings from the spire of a tall tree. His extremely variable song is thin, high pitched and a penetrating combination of single notes and trills, described as "zips" followed by "zeeee".

The Blackburnian builds his nest well out toward the end of a high limb where it is safe from all but winged predators. Made of twigs, plant down, lichens and bark shreds, it holds four eggs — white spotted with brown. The breeding range extends from central Saskatchewan, east to James Bay and south through New England and the Appalachians to Georgia. In winter its range extends from the Yucatan Peninsula to Peru.

The diet of this Warbler includes beetles, caterpillars and other small insects gleaned from forest foliage.

Live Bald Eagle to Visit Eastern Cities on Educational Tour



MIGISIWA

Americans in four eastern cities will get a chance to view their national symbol — a live American bald eagle — later this month when "Migisiwa" goes on tour.

Migisiwa, a 12-year-old adult male bald eagle on loan to the National Wildlife Federation from the federal government, will visit Philadelphia, Boston, New York and Baltimore from June 18 through July 4 for a series of educational presentations in commemoration of 1982 as the "Year of the Eagle." The tour, sponsored by Exxon USA, is the second of a series of scheduled trips designed to help focus public attention on the plight of the bald eagle, now an endangered species throughout most of the United States. The highlight of the tour will come on June 20

— "National Bald Eagle Day" — when Migisiwa participates in a noontime ceremony at Philadelphia's Independence Hall. The ceremony will commemorate the day, 200 years ago, when the bald eagle was chosen as this country's national symbol. The remainder of Migisiwa's tour will include a variety of programs at zoos, nature centers, schools and corporations.

Migisiwa has been in captivity since 1970, when he fractured his right wing in a collision with an automobile in Florida — an injury that prevents him from ever returning to the wild. For the past twelve years, he has been in the custody of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's captive breeding program at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Patuxent, Md. He is on loan to the National Wildlife Federation throughout the "Year of the Eagle" for use in educational programs.

President Reagan officially proclaimed 1982 as a commemorative year for the eagle last January, when he urged Americans to honor the 200th anniversary of the bald eagle's selection as this country's national symbol. The National Wildlife Federation had worked for more than eight months to garner support for the presidential proclamation.

While at the NWF Migisiwa is under the care of naturalist Roy Geiger, an expert on eagles and other raptors, or birds of prey. Geiger will accompany and care for Migisiwa throughout the series of tours.

Migisiwa's tentative itinerary for this tour is as follows: June 18 through 21: Philadelphia; June 23 and 24: Boston; June 28 and 30: Staten Island, and New York City; July 2 through 4: Baltimore.

Honeoye Falls Fire Dept.

CARNIVAL

June

9, 10, 11 & 12



Wednesday, June 9

Monroe County Park Band

7 p.m.

Thursday, June 10

Dixieland Band 'Canal Street Strutters'

Steamed Clams

8 p.m.

Friday, June 11

Firemen's Parade

7 p.m.

Saturday, June 12

Kiddies' Parade

12.30 p.m.

Kiddies' Matinee

1-4 p.m.

Dady Brothers Band

Grand Prize Drawing 11 p.m.



Amusements by Fairland

GAMROD'S

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Mae Campbell

and

The Continentals

Friday, June 11 7:30 - 11:30

John Alexander

Nashville Recording Artist

Saturday 9 - 1 a.m.

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