

detect that the first phrase was a typical *chrysoptera* syllable, while the second was a perfect *pinus* syllable, thus: *shree-e-e*, *zwee-e-e-e*, the first syllable penetrating and somewhat harsh, the second long-drawn, dreamy and wheezy.

Habits.—Very similar to *pinus*. The male Lawrence Warbler was mated with a typical female Blue-winged Warbler. The nest was placed on the ground among a thick layer of dead leaves, and was arched over and almost concealed from view by sweet-brier vines. It was a well-made cup of dried leaves lined with strips of cedar bark. On June 13 there were six vigorous young birds in the nest, all in the typical nestling plumage of *H. pinus*, showing no traces of the black markings of *H. lawrencei*. Within five minutes after our arrival, both parents appeared, carrying mouthfuls of green cut-worms. The birds were very tame, allowing us to approach within eight feet without showing fear. At other times the birds were within a yard of the observer. Both parents kept up the sharp chips of warning to the young. The young birds left the nest in safety on June 16, and though search has been since made, they have not again been observed.

It is hoped that this interesting and rare species, whether it be a hybrid or, as I half suspect, a species in the process of making, will make the Zoölogical Park its home for a third year. It has seemed to us that when the identification is as certain as in this instance, the interests of science may best be served by permitting the bird to breed unmolested, rather than by simply adding a twelfth skin to our collections, and by so doing, put an end to all hope of future observations of the bird or its offspring. I wish that ornithologists would do likewise more often in the case of extra-limital records of species where the identification of the living bird is certain.—C. WILLIAM BEEBE, *Curator of Ornithology, New York Zoölogical Park.*

Myrtle Warblers Wintering in Maine.—Several years ago there was some comment in 'The Auk' with reference to a claim that Myrtle Warblers had been found wintering in this State. Under title of 'The Yellow-rumped Warbler Wintering in Maine,' Dr. Joseph L. Goodale reported the capture of two of these birds from a flock of six at Pine Point, Me., Jan. 1, 1885 (Auk, Vol. II, p. 216). Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown later expressed a doubt that these Pine Point birds tarried in Maine throughout the season, implying that it was a time of unusually severe cold (Auk, Vol. II, p. 307).

I am now able to establish by reliable evidence the wintering in Maine the past winter of a flock of three to six Myrtle Warblers. The season, it should be remembered, was more severe than usual, the thermometer being near the zero mark morning after morning through January, when the birds were found. Jan. 10, 1904, I walked to Pond Cove, Cape Elizabeth, the snow being about two feet deep and the day severely cold. There I saw several birds flying about the trees near the road, but I did

not at that time succeed in fully identifying them, the snow being deep and I was not suitably dressed for wading. Jan. 17, 1904, equipped for any depth of snow, I went to the same locality for the purpose of ascertaining if possible what the birds were. They were found in the same general locality and identified fully as Myrtle Warblers. I saw three at that time. They were living in the edge of evergreen woods and were found feeding on a weedy slope a hundred feet from the shore of Casco Bay. The principal growth here was the bayberry or wax myrtle, and the birds were observed feeding in these bushes. Jan. 24, 1904, I took with me to the place J. F. Fanning, Esq., and J. W. Leathers, Esq., of Portland, both members of the Maine Ornithological Society and both experienced observers. The identity of the Myrtle Warblers was fully confirmed by them. Three and perhaps four of the birds were seen at this time. Jan. 31, 1904, I took with me Mr. Leathers and Mr. Arthur H. Norton, of Westbrook, the latter the leading ornithologist of this locality, whose contributions to 'The Auk' are familiar to all its readers. The birds were again fully identified and it was made almost certain that there were four in the flock. Feb. 7, 1904, I again visited the place and found the birds still there, but could not count more than three. Feb. 14, 1904, in company with Mr. Fanning and Mr. Leathers, I saw one Myrtle Warbler at Cumberland, fully ten miles from Pond Cove. This one was near a large growth of wax myrtle bushes. I did not visit Pond Cove again until Feb. 28, 1904. At this time it was raining and no Myrtle Warblers were seen. March 6, 1904, I was again at Pond Cove but saw no warblers. March 13, 1904, Mr. Fanning, Mr. Leathers and I visited Pond Cove and found the Myrtle Warblers in the same place as on previous visits. This time six of them were seen in the air at the same time, as they flew up from the wax myrtle bushes at our approach, and were again identified beyond a doubt by all three of us.

Two Robins wintered in this same locality, being seen on four or five visits through January to March. A Song Sparrow was also seen here in January and one on March 13. All these birds apparently found plenty of food during the very cold weather and all thrived on the fare they secured from the sunny slope on which they spent the greater part of the time.

The winter was the severest for at least twenty-five years, as evidenced by the freezing of the whole of Casco Bay inside the islands. From 300 to 500 Black Ducks were driven into the inner harbor by the closing of their usual feeding grounds among the islands. They congregated near Martin's Point bridge on the Falmouth shore and for several weeks staid within two hundred yards of the bridge, flying up at the approach of the electric cars which cross the bridge every fifteen minutes. They suffered to some extent for food, and corn and other things were thrown on the flats for them by kind-hearted persons, who thought the birds were liable to starve. Not one of them died, as a matter of fact, except a few whose death was doubtless due to flying against the wires which pass over the

bridge. They staid until the ice began to leave the bay, objects of great curiosity to hundreds of persons who went there for the purpose of seeing so unusual a sight.—W. H. BROWNSON, *Portland, Me.*

Phyllopseustes versus Phylloscopus.—In a recent connection (Hand List Gen. and Spec. Birds, IV, 1903, p. 358), Dr. Sharpe very properly calls attention to the fact that *Phyllopseustes* is untenable as the generic name of the group of willow (or leaf) warblers to which it has been more or less frequently applied. The proper designation is *Phylloscopus* Boie (Isis, 1826, p. 972), as Dr. Sharpe has shown (*loc. cit.*), for in both the supposed earlier references to *Phyllopseustes*, or *Phyllopseuste* (Meyer, Vög. Liv. u. Esthlands, 1815, p. 122; *ibid.*, Taschenb. Deutsch. Vögel, III, 1822, p. 95), the name is employed not in a generic sense but as a plural group heading, and is spelled "*Phyllopseustæ*." The generic name *Phyllopseustes*, however, has for long stood in the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List; and the present writer, in suggesting to Dr. Sharpe the propriety of using this name in place of *Phylloscopus*, did so without considering the necessity of verifying the original reference, but relying upon the presumed correctness of the Check-List. Now, however, the ghost of *Phyllopseustes* having been finally laid, *Phylloscopus* may rest undismayed in possession of its own.

The only willow warbler occurring in North America — *Phyllopseustes borealis* (Blasius) of the A. O. U. Check-List (1895, p. 313) — is, as many authors have contended, generically different from *Phylloscopus*, and should be called *Acanthopneuste borealis* (Blasius). — HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

Peculiar Nesting-site of the Bluebird in the Bermudas.—On June 28, 1903, I found a Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) at Hungary Bay in Bermuda. Unlike any that I had ever seen, it was built of grass and weeds, rather bulky, and placed on the branch of a cedar tree about fifteen feet from the ground, and several feet out from the trunk of the tree. It contained one fresh egg which undoubtedly belonged to a second set. Both birds were present and showed considerable anxiety when I looked at the nest.

All the Bluebirds in Bermuda do not build nests in this manner, for I saw one which was discovered by Mr. A. H. Clark in the capstan of an old wreck (that was about July 10, and the nest contained three nearly fledged young).

Major Wedderburn in Jones's 'Naturalist in Bermuda' states that the Yellow-bellied Woodpecker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) bred in Bermuda occasionally and that many palmetto trees were bored by them, but I saw no woodpecker holes, and there were very few palmettos in the neighborhood of the nest at Hungary Bay. The lack, or scarcity of woodpecker holes is probably what induced the birds to build a nest placed on a branch of the only common tree.

I have looked up the nesting habits of the Bluebird in a number of



1904. "Myrtle Warblers Wintering in Maine." *The Auk* 21, 388–390.

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