

Connecticut shore of Long Island Sound, in late September and October, and it was therefore made an exception, and included, as was clearly stated in the note on this species (p. 82), without its having ever been taken on Long Island. A specimen was first secured by the writer on October 5, 1907, at Rockaway Beach.—WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, M. D., *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

**The Tree Swallow Nesting in the Delaware Valley.**—On July 7, 1907, while boating on the Rancocas we found a Tree Swallow's nest in a hole in a pile near Bridgeboro, Burlington County, N. J., less than five miles from the Delaware River. It contained five well incubated eggs. While this bird is a somewhat common breeder throughout the Pine Barren region of southern New Jersey it is rarely found nesting within the Delaware Valley.—CHRESWELL J. HUNT, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

**The Name of the California Least Vireo.**—In 'The Condor' for November, 1901, page 187, I named and described *Vireo pusillus albatus*, with type from Pasadena, distinguishing it from *Vireo pusillus* Coues, from Arizona. In his 'Birds of North and Middle America,' Part III, 1904, page 207, Mr. Ridgway describes *Vireo bellii arizonæ*, with type from Tucson, and distinguishes it from *V. b. medius* of Texas and *V. b. pusillus* (page 208) of California. He cites my name *albatus* as a synonym of *pusillus*, and gives the type of *Vireo pusillus* Coues as from "Cape San Lucas, Lower California; coll. U. S. Nat. Mus."

I have not the original description of *pusillus* to refer to; but turning to Coues's 'Birds of the Colorado Valley,' 1878, page 531, I find in the synonymy "**Vireo pusillus**, Coues, Pr. Phila. Acad. 1866, 76 (descr. orig.; near Fort Whipple, Ariz.)." Further down the page the habitat is given as "Arizona, chiefly in its lower portions, and California from Sacramento to Cape St. Lucas." Furthermore, on the next page (532), Coues makes the following definite statement: "The type-specimen of *Vireo pusillus* was shot on Date Creek, in Arizona, June 6, 1865, [etc., in regard to circumstances of capture]"; and further, "it [the species] remained undescribed until the following year, when I overhauled my Arizona collections at the Smithsonian in Washington." Also, the description (on page 531) applies far better (in fact precisely) to the Arizona race than to that of California.

In view of the above statements by its original describer I cannot understand by what process the type-ship of *pusillus* could possibly be imposed upon a Cape San Lucas specimen. The type bird is stated by Coues to have come from *Arizona*, and that it was shot by himself at a certain place there. That specimen, according to Baird, in his 'Review of American Birds,' 1866, page 361, bore the "Smithsonian No. 40,696." In the ultimate recognition of a separate race in California, the name *pusillus* should apply to the Arizona form as restricted, while the California form is open to naming. This I did; and since intergradation has been shown to exist between the extremes in the species, how can the name of the California

Least Vireo be other than *Vireo bellii albatius*, and that of the Arizona Least Vireo other than *Vireo bellii pusillus*? — J. GRINNELL, *Pasadena, California*.

**Lawrence's and Brewster's Warblers and Mendelian Inheritance.**— In any discussion of the status of Lawrence's and Brewster's Warblers it is well to bear in mind that the facts, including the much greater abundance of Brewster's, are in accord with Mendel's Law of Heredity, supposing both forms to be hybrids between *Helminthophila pinus* and *H. chrysoptera*. I have written out an hypothetical explanation of the case along these lines, signalizing the two most prominent varying characters of the birds, namely, color of underparts and presence or absence of black throat patch. Familiarity with Mendel's Law is taken for granted, and I would refer anyone to whom it is not familiar to an excellent article on the subject by W. E. Castle in Volume XXXVIII of the Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, January, 1903.

Let W stand for "white below"; w stand for "absence of white," *i. e.*, "yellow."

Let P stand for "plain throat"; p stand for "absence of plainness," *i. e.*, "black throat."

Then *H. chrysoptera* is pW; *H. pinus* is Pw; PW (the pure dominant) is Brewster's Warbler; pw (the pure recessive) is Lawrence's Warbler. *H. chrysoptera* × *H. pinus* is pWPw, but in plumage PW, Brewster's Warbler. All the first generation hybrids will be Brewster's Warbler in plumage. In the next generation there will be pure Golden-winged Warblers, pure Blue-winged Warblers, pure Brewster's Warblers, and pure Lawrence's Warblers; also mixed birds of the first three forms, but none of the last form, which, being recessive, comes to light only when pure. The original hybrids then (which will be all Brewster's in plumage) must be fertile with one another or with the parent species for any Lawrence's to occur; and if they are perfectly fertile Lawrence's must still remain a small minority. After the first generation the proportion of plumages of birds with mixed parentage should be: 9 Brewster's, 3 *chrysoptera*, 3 *pinus*, 1 Lawrence's. See Table.

In plumage		In plumage	
PWPW	Brewster's	PWPw	Brewster's
pwpw	Lawrence's	PWpW	"
PwPw	<i>pinus</i>	PwPW	"
pWpW	<i>chrysoptera</i>	pWPW	"
Pwpw	<i>pinus</i>	PWpw	Brewster's
pWpw	<i>chrysoptera</i>	pWPw	"
pwPw	<i>pinus</i>	pwPW	"
pwpW	<i>chrysoptera</i>	PwpW	"

9 Brewster's, 3 *chrysoptera*, 3 *pinus*, 1 Lawrence's.— JOHN TREADWELL NICHOLS, *New York City*.