

in a large oak tree over a swamp, and others on the bare, highest branches of saplings nearby. The birds allowed me to approach very near, and, while I looked on, four of them flew to the wet, springy ground below in order to drink. This was within thirty feet of where I stood. Six or seven of the members of the flock were males in the red plumage.

So far as records inform, April 28 is an unusual if not an unprecedented date for Pine Grosbeaks in this latitude. In southern New England they have generally been observed to linger no later than March; and April 10 is given as a normal date of last occurrence in Manitoba.—ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, *Brown University, Providence, R. I.*

**Orange-crowned Warbler at Youngstown, Ohio.**—In 'The Auk' for April, 1911, p. 268, Richard C. Harlow, of State College, Pennsylvania, mentions the occurrence there of the Orange-crowned Warbler on May 16, 1909. Upon reading this, I referred to my records and found that I had observed an Orange-crowned Warbler, May 15, 1909, at Youngstown, and that this is my only record for this species. I observed it in the early morning in bushes along a small stream. It finally moved along to a brush pile on the bank of the stream where I watched it for perhaps an hour, at times being within 10 feet of it, and identified it to my satisfaction.

Referring to my records again, I find that I listed 20 different species of Warblers on the same day (May 15), 4 of them first arrivals, and some, classed as common, for the first time that season. This indicates that we had here a migration of warblers at that time.

While I was certain of my identification of the Orange-crowned at that time, Mr. Harlow's note, in my opinion, helps to confirm it.—Geo. F. FORDYCE, *Youngstown, Ohio.*

**Brewster's Warbler.**—In 'The Auk' for October, 1910 (XXVII, pp. 443-447), there appeared an article by Julia Wingate Sherman on Brewster's Warbler. As there are numerous inaccuracies in the account it seems best to point them out and correct them as far as possible.

The history of the Brewster's Warbler about Boston dates from 1907. In that year a male was seen in the Arnold Arboretum by Miss Helen Granger on May 19 (Granger, *Auk*, XXIV, 1907, p. 343), and was subsequently found breeding (Faxon, *Auk*, XXIV, 1907, p. 444) with a female Goldenwing. Mrs. Sherman, referring to this pair, writes: "Mr. [C. J.] Maynard sent me a water-color drawing of the female and young, which he made at the time. This female showed an extensive, nearly black throat patch, also a large yellow patch in the wing."

The next year the male Brewster's was seen on May 13 (Peters, *Auk*, XXV, p. 320), near the same place as the year before. On June 8 I found the nest within a few yards of the spot where the pair was located in 1907. At the time the nest contained five naked young. About the same time the nest was discovered by Mr. George Nelson of the Agassiz Museum and was later taken by him for the Museum. There can be no doubt that

the owners of the nest were a male *Helminthophila leucobronchialis* and a female *H. chrysoptera*, as both birds were seen about the nest. About five days after I found the nest the young disappeared, just how will never be known.

A few days after the disappearance of the young birds a nest was found across the road and was believed by Mrs. Sherman and others who did not know of the first to be that of *leucobronchialis*. So far as I am aware the determination of the ownership of the nest was based entirely upon the identification of the female, which was described in 'The Auk' by Mrs. Sherman as having "a dark dusky throat-patch, not clearly defined at its base, but blended into the pale gray of the upper breast. . . . The black line through the eye was broader and extended back farther than did that on the Brewster of the preceding year. She differed also in showing two yellow wing-bands." This description applies perfectly to the female of *chrysoptera* and as there was a male of this species singing not far from the nest in question it is not at all unlikely that he was the owner and not the *leucobronchialis*, as one might be led to believe.

In 1909 and 1910 the straight male *chrysoptera* was the only bird to be seen; in the Arboretum no female was seen or nest found in either year.

Mrs. Sherman describes (*l. c.*, pp. 444, 445) a pair of Goldenwings which bred in Roslindale in 1910. The male was a typical *chrysoptera*; the female, which had been identified as *leucobronchialis*, had much the same plumage as the one she had just described (see above), but differed in having "the dusky throat patch lighter in color. It bore the same character in being darker towards its center and directly under the bill. The one in 1908 had a nearly black throat patch, mottled slightly in appearance. The black line through the eye was narrower and paled on a pale gray cheek. The white line above the eye was uniform in width. . . . The white line below the eye was shorter. The whole tone of the back was more olivaceous. Two bright yellow wing-bars divided by an olive or dark band on the wing. The entire underparts were washed with yellow which showed quite bright on the middle of the breast in a good light. The crown was bright dandelion yellow running into bronzy yellow on the back of the head."

This description seems to be a rather good one of a female *Helminthophila chrysoptera* in very high plumage.

It has always been believed that the females in the Arboretum in 1907 and 1908 were *chrysoptera*, and I see no reason why either of these birds or the one in Roslindale should ever be regarded as anything else.—JAMES L. PETERS, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** (*Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*) **Nesting in Sterling, Massachusetts.**—I have been collecting about Lancaster, Mass., since 1897 and I have never found but one Black-throated Blue Warbler's nest until today.

My friend Mr. Herbert Parker told me he had found what he was sure was a Black-throated Blue's nest, in Sterling, which is the next town to