

town, New Jersey, June 14, 1888, by Mr. L. P. Scherrer. So far as we are aware, this is the fourth record of this species in New Jersey and the second specimen secured.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

**The Subspecific Name of the Northern Parula Warbler.**—To change the well-established name of any bird for almost any reason has always seemed to me something best left undone. Nevertheless there are cases where it cannot be avoided. This, perhaps, is true of the one thus referred to by Dr. Oberholser, in a personal letter dated January 21, 1918. "You will note that in your paper in 'The Auk,' XIII, 1896, p. 44, you rejected the name *Sylvia pusilla* Wilson (Amer. Orn., IV, 1811, p. 17, pl. 28, fig. 3), because presumably preoccupied by *Sylvia pusilla* Latham (Supplement Ind. Orn., 1801, p. 56). This latter name, however, results merely from the putting into the genus *Sylvia* of *Motacilla pusilla* White (Journ. Voy. New S. Wales, 1790, p. 257, pl. 42), which is now *Acanthiza pusilla* (White). According to our present rules of nomenclature, the name *Sylvia pusilla* Latham, not being an original description, but merely a nomenclatural combination, does not prevent any subsequent use of the same combination; therefore, the name *Sylvia pusilla* Wilson, of which the type locality is eastern Pennsylvania, becomes available for the northern form of the warbler which you named *Compsothlypis americana usneæ*, and which would, therefore, stand as *Compsothlypis americana pusilla*. I think I have thus given you all the references and data necessary to write up the matter for publication, and I trust I have made myself clear. It seems very much better for you to make the change than for me to do so, since you were the discoverer and original describer of the subspecies."

With the above statement of fact and opinion I now see no reason to disagree — especially as the change thereby suggested will result in the restoration of a time-honored name, to which Wilson seems justly entitled. Nor could any one be otherwise than pleased with courtesy so gracious and self-oblitative as that expressed in the closing sentence of Dr. Oberholser's characteristic letter.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Bachman's Warbler and Solitary Sandpiper in Indiana.**—On May 16, 1917, while working through a fine bit of warbler woods near Indianapolis, I was startled by an apparition of a male Bachman's warbler (*Vermivora bachmani*). The pretty fellow popped up from a low bush in a mass of undergrowth and after fluttering among the twigs for a moment dropped down out of sight. I was about to conclude that I had been dreaming of rare warblers when up came the bird again from the same bush and his second visit was much longer than his first. I had a fine chance to note his yellow forehead and throat with the great splotch of black on his chest. After a time he left for a distant part of the woods traveling leisurely from low bush to low bush inspecting the twigs critically and taking insects constantly. I finally lost him. Afterward I visited the woods several days in succession hoping to see the bird but without result

until about a week later when I had the good fortune to see both male and female.

I frequently saw one or the other of the birds, occasionally both together, all during the breeding season but was not able to locate a nest though feeling sure that they had built one in that immediate vicinity.

The character of the woods was such as would appeal to a Bachman's Warbler in breeding time. High trees with thick undergrowth covered rolling ground, each depression being very damp and almost swampy. In the densest part of the woods there was a stagnant pool and in and about this pool a pair of Solitary Sandpipers elected to spend the time from April to the middle of June after which time I was unable to watch them, being out of the city. Early in the season they paid very little attention to visitors and when disturbed would fly up with their characteristic piping notes, then immediately settle down again in the very place where they had been feeding, but about the first of June only one bird was in evidence at a time and when a visitor approached it would scurry out of sight into the mass of swamp willows which filled the center of the pool. Might not these birds have been nesting there, too?—ETTA S. WILSON, *Detroit, Michigan.*

**The Canada Warbler again in Colorado.**—A specimen of the Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) was taken on Clear Creek, Colo., near Denver, by my brother, Arthur Rett, on May 26, 1917. It is a male in excellent plumage, and is now in my collection.—E. RETT, *Denver, Colo.*

**Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*) Spending the Winter at West Haven, Conn.**—I announced in the April, 1917, number of 'The Auk' the presence of a Mockingbird in West Haven, Conn., from November 8, 1916, to March 24, 1917.

On July 17, 1917, the bird returned and is passing the winter at the same place. (January 20, 1918.) Last winter the bird would not take food put out for it but preferred to eat Honeysuckle and Bittersweet berries, but this winter it takes food put out for it and has become so tame as to alight on the windowsill and eat food. I have also observed it eating the dry seed pods of the asparagus which it swallowed whole as it does the berries of the Bittersweet.

On November 18, 1917, while at Colonial Park, a summer resort about two miles from West Haven, I observed another Mocker which was eating the berries of a Honeysuckle vine that grew along a fence. The extreme cold weather during the last few days of December and the first of January, I thought would surely kill our Mocker, but he came through all safe and seems none the worse. During that time the thermometer went as low as twelve degrees below zero, which proves that Mockingbirds are not altogether southern birds but can stand our northern winters. The plumage of this bird is quite different this winter, having a great deal more white in the wings and tail so I would judge that it was a young bird when it passed the winter of 1916 and 1917 with us.—NELSON E. WILMOT, *West Haven, Conn.*