

1883, shot after procuring three sets of eggs." Further comment is hardly necessary when I state that both birds are Baird's Sparrow (*Coturniculus bairdii*), the "male" being an adult, the "female" a juvenal specimen. From the peculiar make-up of the skins I have no hesitation in saying that they were taken by Mr. Krider on a trip which he took to North Dakota with Dr. W. L. Abbott in 1881. Dr. Detwiller obtained many specimens from Krider.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

What has happened to the Martins?—Last summer the Martins (*Progne subis*) were suddenly either destroyed or driven away from their boxes in this town where for many years they have been domiciled. I watched interestedly for their arrival this spring, and was delighted on May 8, 1904, to see one about their old homes; but my delight has been short-lived, as the one lone bird disappeared and no others have come. Does it mean that the largest Concord colony I know of, where for many years at least fifteen pairs have nested, is wiped out? I would like to know if other New England towns have so mysteriously lost their Martins.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Concord, Mass.*

Breeding of Lawrence Warbler in New York City.—It is with pleasure that I am able to place on record some notes of the breeding of Lawrence Warbler (*Helminthophila lawrencei*). This is, I believe, the twelfth individual of this species to be recorded, and the first instance of its breeding, the other eleven birds being migrants.

The discovery of the nest was first made by Dr. Wiegmann early in June of the present year, and many of the following notes are from his observations.

Occurrence.—On May 15, 1903, Dr. Wiegmann observed a Lawrence Warbler in the New York Zoölogical Park, and on June 6 of last year I made a note of this species in my journal, but the glimpse I had of the bird was so brief that I then recorded the identification as not sufficiently certain for publication. The bird was first observed in the Park on May 18 of this year, and almost every day thereafter until June 16.

Plumage.—The individual Lawrence Warbler under consideration was exactly like the type specimen of Herrick as described in Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America' (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. No. 50, Part II, p. 452) except that the gular patch of black extended over the entire chin. The bird was in finest plumage, the markings of the throat and lores being jet black. The wing bars were white with just a tinge of yellow when seen in a favorable light at short range.

Habitat.—The bird's breeding place in the Zoölogical Park was in an open hardwood growth, near one of the Society's buildings, hardly a stone's throw from the Bird House.

Song.—This resembled very closely the dreamy *zree-e-e, zwee-e-e-e* of the Blue-winged Warbler (*H. pinnus*). An acute ear, however, could

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. laurencei*. 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