

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.*

**Phyllopeustes 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 *Phyllopeustes* 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 *Phyllopeustes*, or *Phyllopeuste* (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 "*Phyllopeuste*." The generic name *Phyllopeustes*, 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 *Phyllopeustes* having been finally laid, *Phylloscopus* may rest undismayed in possession of its own.

The only willow warbler occurring in North America — *Phyllopeustes 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

books and have seen no reference to its building a nest such as I have described.—OWEN BRYANT, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Dates of Nesting of Bermuda Birds.**—As little has been published in regard to nesting habits of Bermuda birds the following observations may prove interesting. I was not there to find birds' eggs and only an insignificant part of my time was spent at it, so the data are few.

**ENGLISH SPARROW** (*Passer domesticus*). June 27, 1903. Flatts. Two nests with young; 1 nest with 5 eggs, incubated; 2 nests with 4 eggs, incubated.

**CAT BIRD** (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*). June 28, 1903. Hungary Bay. One nest with 3 eggs, incubated.

July 8, 1903. Flatts. One nest with three fresh eggs. All the nests I found were in bushes 3-10 feet from ground. (Nests the same as in New England.)

**YELLOW-BILLED TROPIC BIRD** (*Phaethon flavirostris*). June 30, 1903, Castle Island. One nest with fresh egg; several nests with downy young, about 6 in. long.

June 10. Harrington Sound. One nest with incubated egg; several nests with half grown young. All were in holes in rock. One was a mere depression in a flat rock; others 2 to 4 feet deep.

**CARDINAL BIRD**. (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). July 8. Flatts. One nest with three eggs, nearly hatched. In the top of a rather small cedar tree about 20 feet up. It was high enough to be quite conspicuous. The bird called my attention to it by squeaking.

**EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH** (*Carduelis carduelis*). June 29. Trunk Island. Saw one of the old birds fly on to the nest, which was empty but apparently finished.

July 6. The same nest contained 4 fresh eggs. It was in a cedar tree, about 25 feet up, on a horizontal branch 6 or 7 feet from the trunk. It was made mostly of yellow down and looked very much like the nest of our Yellow-bird.—OWEN BRYANT, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Unusual Records near Boston, Mass.**—During the last winter and spring a number of uncommon birds have come under our notice, and although none of them are rare, they may be worthy of record.

**Larus philadelphia**. One was seen flying over the Charles River near the Harvard Bridge, May 14, 1904.

**Sula bassana**. A single bird was observed April 8, 1904, off Lynn Beach.

**Mareca americana**. One spent April 17, 1904, on the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, Brighton, in company with two Black Ducks.

**Aythya marila**. A flock estimated to number about six hundred wintered about Moon Island. We have not found them wintering at any other point in Boston Bay.