

abundant and it is quite possible that this rarer subspecies may have been overlooked and confused with the migratory bird.

The nest was situated on the horizontal branch of a small mesquite bush in an abandoned cornfield. Being only about three feet from the ground it was well concealed by the rather tall grass and some vines of a little blossoming passion flower. The situation of the old cornfield was near the river bank which accounts, in this dry section of the State, for the grass and other green growth.

Upon discovery the parent bird was not present and a long watch was necessary before she made her appearance. Upon arrival she went at once to her nest, from which she was driven and shot.

Three fresh eggs were found in the nest, and dissection of the parent proved that the set was complete. The eggs appear to be pure white in color when unblown and exposed to the direct rays of the sun, but upon being emptied show a very delicate blue, lighter than that of our Eastern Bluebird. Through an accident two of these eggs were badly broken before our arrival home. The specimen not broken measures  $23 \times 17$  mm.

The nest was well constructed and, roughly speaking, about 100 to 110 mm. in height and about the same in width. The coarser part, or foundation, is constructed of dried leaves, some finer portions of corn husks and, worked in through from one side to the other, the shed skin of a rather large snake. Forming the outer layer of this foundation are some dried weed stalks which are apparently held in position by coarse spider webs wound about the exterior after they have been placed in position. The nest proper is very neatly constructed of fine grass stems and lined with fine rootlets, yellow in color. The bowl of the nest is about 51 mm. deep and 60 mm. wide.

The parent is in full breeding plumage, and, unlike Ridgway's description, is lighter in color than specimens of *G. c. lazula*, especially below. It also shows washings of blue on the ear coverts and wings.—P. W. SHUFFELDT, *Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, Mexico.*

**Brewster's Warbler (*Vermivora leucobronchialis*) in Lexington, Mass.**—In 'The Auk' for October, 1907, I recorded a Brewster's Warbler found during the summer of that year in a swamp in Lexington, Mass. In the decade that has since elapsed, this bird has been found established in the same swamp every summer except that of 1909, when no search was made for it. In 1910 and 1913, Dr. W. M. Tyler and I made a careful study of this hybrid and its relations with the Golden-winged Warbler (*V. chrysoptera*) and the Blue-winged Warbler (*V. pinus*). The results of our observations were published by me in the Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Vol. XL, Nos. 2 and 6, January 1911 and August, 1913. The persistence of this hybrid form in the same locality through so many consecutive years is in itself well worthy of record; I wish, too, to summarize the knowledge acquired relative to the matings of these birds and the duration of the nestling period.

In the season of 1910 there were two pairs of which the males were Golden-wings, the females Brewster's; one pair of Golden-wings; and one unmated male Brewster's. The issue of one of the heterogeneous pairs, Golden-wing and Brewster's, were all Brewster's Warblers, of the other, a mixed brood of Golden-wing and Brewster's. The pair of Golden-wings produced Golden-wings only.

In 1912 a male Golden-wing mated with a female Brewster's.

In 1913 a male Golden-wing mated with a female Blue-wing, a male Brewster's with a female Golden-wing. The progeny of the first pair were all Brewster's, of the second pair one Golden-wing plus several Brewster's.

In 1914 a male Brewster's mated with a female Golden-wing; their nest was not discovered till June 16, the day the young left it.

In 1917 a male Brewster's mated with a female Golden-wing. Here are six cases of the mating of Brewster's Warbler, each time with a Golden-wing, and one case of a Blue-wing mated with a Golden-wing. Observe that all previously published accounts of the pairing of Brewster's Warbler have been records of the union of this form with either a Golden-wing or a Blue-wing (see my paper in Mem. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., Vol. XL, No. 2, p. 71).

It is worthy of note that the numerous Golden-winged and Brewster's Warblers seen in this locality during these years have without exception exhibited an absolute purity of plumage in spite of the constant crossing of the two forms. In other words, no plumage intermediate between the Golden-wing and Brewster's has cropped out.

Duration of the nestling period: in 1897 the five eggs in a nest belonging to a pair of Golden-winged Warblers (Arlington, Mass.) hatched June 8, the young left the nest June 15. In 1910 the five eggs of a Brewster's Warbler mated with a male Golden-wing hatched June 8, the young left the nest June 17. In 1917, the five eggs of a Golden-wing mated with a male Brewster's Warbler hatched June 21, the young left the nest June 29-30. The life of the young birds in the nest therefore covers from seven to ten days.

The spring of 1917 was without precedent in its backwardness. *V. chrysoptera* did not arrive until May 19. This is latest date for the arrival of this bird in my records of twenty-eight years, the average time of arrival being May 11-12, the earliest, May 3 (1905). This will account for the phenomenally late breeding of the 1917 birds given above.

Several other localities in the town of Lexington are the home of Golden-winged Warblers, but none of them have ever yielded a Brewster's Warbler. In the adjacent towns I have twice seen a Brewster's Warbler: in Concord, May 19, 1912 (Faxon, Mem. Comp. Zoöl., Vol. XL, No. 6, p. 312, footnote 1), five miles from the Lexington swamp, and in Waltham, May 31, 1915, two miles from the Lexington locality.—WALTER FAXON, *Lexington, Mass.*