

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