

GOLDEN-WINGED, BLUE-WINGED, AND BREWSTER'S WARBLERS IN ANOKA COUNTY — On May 19, 1977, while doing field work on a chickadee research project at the Cedar Creek Natural History Area in northern Anoka County, I heard a two-part, buzzy song, "buzz-bee," which I took to be that of a Blue-winged Warbler. I investigated, as Bluewings had never been reported at Cedar Creek. The bird was singing in a swampy area of small birches and alders with an understory largely of ferns, and proved to be a Brewster's Warbler. The cap was yellow, there were two yellow wing-bars, the breast appeared white, and there was no black mask nor bib. The phenotypically "pure" Goldenwing has a black cap and bib, one solid yellow wing-bar, a pure white breast, and a blue-gray back. The "pure" Bluewing has a black eye stripe, yellow breast, no black bib, two white wing-bars, and a yellow-green back. The term "Brewster's Warbler" is generally used for ~~Cedar Creek birds which lack the Goldenwing's black bib~~

171

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and mask and also lack the Bluewing's solid yellow underparts. "Lawrence's Warbler" refers to birds with the Bluewing's solid yellow underparts and the Goldenwing's black mask and bib. (Parkes, Kenneth C. 1951. The genetics of the Golden-winged X Blue-winged Warbler complex. *Wilson Bulletin* 63:5-15.) Within a few yards of this first sighting, a Brewster's Warbler, probably the same bird, was seen on May 27 by Jeff Burns and myself with the additional details of a blue-gray back with some yellow on the back of the neck, a white breast, but with a diffuse yellow band across it. On June 11, 500 yards south southeast of these sightings, in a tamarac swamp. I saw a Brewster's Warbler with an apparently pure white breast foraging a few feet from the ground, while a male Goldenwing sang nearby. Presumably, this was a second Brewster's and a female. On May 23, I saw a male Blue-winged Warbler in an alder swamp, 1/2 mile west of this last Brewster's sighting. He was singing a typical Bluewing song, and later, when I returned with Jeff Burns, a male and a female Goldenwing were in the same tree. On June 21, about 300 yards to the northwest, I heard and saw a male Golden-winged Warbler, and then found him accompanied by a Blue-winged Warbler, presumably a female, as they foraged. On May 20, I saw 300 yards to the south a female Goldenwing carrying nest materials with a male Goldenwing close by, and on June 19, I found a female Goldenwing feeding a tailless, fuzzy young one with another buzzing nearby, and perhaps 100 feet further away yet a third young bird being fed by a male Golden-winged Warbler. Throughout the last half of May and June I encountered many singing male Golden-winged Warblers at Cedar Creek, at least 20 males on territory. The above observations constitute the first summer records for any of these warblers at the Cedar Creek Natural History Area. Thus it seems evident that Golden-winged Warblers breed commonly in northern Anoka County, and that they hybridize with the occasional Blue-winged Warblers there. As Blue-winged Warblers have in the past few decades spread north into Golden-winged Warbler range, (Short, Lester L., Jr. 1963. Hybridization in the wood warblers *Vermivora pinus* and *V. chrysoptera*. *Proceedings XIIIth International Ornithological Congress*: 147-160.), it is quite possible that this is also happening in Minnesota. James L. Howitz, 1700 Silver Lake Road, New Brighton, Minnesota 55112.