

**Notice of the Presence of *Quiscalus quiscula æneus* in Upper South Carolina.**—I have lately given some attention to the capture of Crow Blackbirds, having in view especially the discovery of subspecies *æneus*. My efforts in this particular direction, however, were unsuccessful until Nov. 5, 1887, when I obtained a single male from a small flock near Chester C. H. Nov. 12, a second male was taken in the same locality from a little band of half-a-dozen. On the 21st three additional males and four females, together with two examples of the typical form, were secured from an immense assemblage in the neighborhood of Chestnut Grove in the northern part of Chester County. The continued recurrence of birds chiefly peculiar to the West accentuates anew the necessity of a thorough overhauling of the ornithology of this region.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *Chester, S. C.*

***Quiscalus quiscula aglæus* in Louisiana.**—In the October, 1887, Auk (p. 303) Mr. Beckham states that the Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula æneus*) was the form found at Bayou Sara, Louisiana. In the Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History, for July, 1881 (p. 150) Dr. Langdon reports "a few specimens, evidently residents, shot for the purpose of identification, prove to be of the *purpureus* form." In the early summer of 1886, at New Orleans and vicinity, the Florida Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aglæus*) was the only one of the smaller Grackles which I secured or observed. With the exception of one Bronzed Grackle, taken in winter, all the specimens in the collection of Mr. Gustave Kohn, were of this form. From this it will be seen that the three varieties have been found in Louisiana in the breeding season. Bayou Sara and New Orleans are about eighty miles apart, by air line, though more than twice that distance following the course of the river. It will be interesting to discover just where between these two points the three varieties meet.—A. K. FISHER, M. D., *Washington, D. C.*

**Breeding of the Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertina*) in the White Mountains of Arizona.**—In 'The Auk' (Vol. IV. No. 3, p. 256, 257) I observed two notices of the occurrence of the Evening Grosbeak; one from Toronto, Canada, the other from Hickman, Kentucky. In the latter case Mr. J. A. Allen is quoted as stating that "its occurrence anywhere south of the Great Lakes is rare." It may, therefore, be of interest to readers of "The Auk" to know of an instance of this bird having bred as far southwest as the head-waters of the Little Colorado River in the White Mountains of Arizona.

On June 5, 1884, while looking out for anything of ornithological interest in a thickly wooded cañon some fifteen miles west of the little town of Springerville, Apache County, Arizona, my attention was attracted by a bird which I did not know, flying off its nest in the top of a thick willow bush. Having climbed up to the nest and ascertained that it contained three eggs I returned to the ranch. Next day I visited the cañon with my shotgun, and finding that the number of eggs in the nest had not in-

creased, concealed myself close by, and after a long wait succeeded in procuring the female as she flew from the nest. At that time I knew so little about American birds or their eggs that I took no eggs except when I could authenticate them by procuring the female bird.

The nest was a comparatively slight structure, rather flat in shape, composed of small sticks and roots, lined with finer portions of the latter. The eggs, three in number, were of a clear, greenish ground color, blotched with pale brown. They were fresh. The nest was placed about fifteen feet from the ground in the extreme top of a thick willow bush. The slight cañon, with a few willow bushes in its centre bordering a small stream, lies in the midst of very dense pine timber at an altitude of about 7000 feet, as far as I can judge.

I mentioned the fact of my having taken the nest of the Evening Grosbeak to my friend, Mr. E. W. Nelson, but at first he was decidedly sceptical on the subject. On November 5, 1885, however, while staying at Mr. Nelson's ranch, eight miles southwest of Springerville, and during a slight snowstorm, I saw a second specimen of this species among a large number of Mexican Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra stricklandi*) but failed to kill it. Next day (Nov. 6), while riding near the same place with Mr. Nelson, we came upon three Evening Grosbeaks, and after several shots he succeeded in killing a fine male with a charge of buckshot! These are the only occasions that I have known of this bird being seen anywhere around here, but ornithological observers here are few and far between.—JOHN SWINBURNE, *Springerville, Arizona*.

[Mr. Swinburne is probably the first ornithologist who has had the good fortune to find the nest of this species, although Mr. W. E. Bryant's later discovery has already been recorded.\*—ED.]

**Occurrence of *Coccothraustes vespertina* in Iowa.**—Among other visitors from the north, during the winter of 1886-87, numbers of Evening Grosbeaks appeared in this neighborhood. About the middle of December several were observed a short distance north of the city, but it was not until the first of February that they began to appear in the principal streets. When first noticed in the town, there was a flock of twenty-five or more feeding upon the samaræ which were still attached to the branches of the box elders. The kernels of the keys were quickly and adroitly removed and the refuse allowed to fall upon the snow beneath, which after a short time was thickly strewn with the remains of the feast. February 23 a flock of over one hundred suddenly appeared on the University campus, and after remaining an hour or more, departed. From this date until April 30, nearly ten weeks, it was their custom to visit the campus early in the morning and remain until noon, when they would fly away and spend the remainder of the day elsewhere. During their stay the food of these birds consisted chiefly of the samaræ of the box elders and sugar maples, the young leaf buds of various trees, seeds, and

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\* Bull. Cal. Acad. Sci. Vol. II, 1887.