

The specimens of *D. ocellata*, so determined by von Pelzeln, before me are marked male and female, and differ from each other in the general smaller dimensions and shorter bill of the female. These examples cannot be separated from *D. weddelli* Lafres., with the types of which I have compared them.

If therefore these specimens from von Pelzeln have been compared with Spix's type and found identical, then Lafresnaye's species must become a synonym of *D. ocellata*, but if not, then I am still in doubt as to what *D. ocellata* really is. If Spix's type is still in existence, this point could be easily settled by the Continental ornithologists.

A single example of *D. spixi*, and which agrees fairly well with Spix's description and figure, shows that this species is very nearly related to *D. guttatoides* Lafres., but differs in much more slender bill, generally smaller dimensions, and different coloration on the back and under parts, with, however, the same character of spots. It may be described as follows: Top of head and back of neck brownish black, each feather with a central, pale buff, tear-shaped spot, more elongated on the neck. Back, yellow-olivaceous-brown with broad, central, buff stripes bordered with black. Rump and upper tail-coverts dark cinnamon. Throat pale buff, each feather indistinctly margined with pale brown. Entire under parts grayish-olive-brown, each feather with a broad, central, buff streak, margined with black, some of these streaks on upper part of breast being a bright buff. Wings and tail dark cinnamon. Bill long and slender, dark brown, paler at the tip. Feet horn brown. Length, 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.; wing, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.; tail, 3 $\frac{5}{8}$ in.; bill, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Specimen described No. 48,149, collection American Museum of Natural History ex Para (Natterer).

In my key of the species *D. spixi* will have to be removed from the position given it and placed after *D. guttatoides* as "C. Bill long, slender, longer than head. Throat and stripes on breast buff."

D. elegans Pelz. is a very distinct species, and well characterized by the description quoted from the Orn. Bras. Its position in the key is quite correct.—D. G. ELLIOT, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

The Purple Grackle at Charleston, South Carolina.—Mr. Wayne has at length taken true *Q. quiscula* near Charleston. The specimen, which he sends me for examination, is a female in high plumage. I cannot see that it differs at all from several of the females in my collection from the Middle States. It was shot by Mr. Wayne, Nov. 30, 1889, at Pinopolis, a few miles from the City proper.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Quiscalus quiscula æneus Killing and Catching Goldfish.—During the past summer, while noting the condition of my goldfish pond I frequently found many bodies of these fishes floating, bearing evidence of some sharp instrument having been used to effect their death: deep incisions, holes, and grooves in their heads and backs, etc. Carefully killing every Kingfisher and all the Herons, Bitterns being wholly absent, I became very much puzzled at the constant loss of life among these pretty fish of which