

territory very few have hitherto been reported from Chester Co., Pa., and they only very recently I believe. My first observation of them was made within six miles of West Chester, east of the town Nov. 30, 1911, when two of them were noticed in a field, on the ground. Three days later, on Dec. 3, I observed quite a large flock of them closely associated with a belated colony of Purple Grackles, they were seeking shelter for the night in a clump of evergreen trees on a lawn in the town and numbered thirty or forty individuals, enough to start a good sized colony next spring if they remain.—THOMAS H. JACKSON, *West Chester, Pa.*

Strange actions of a Red-eyed Cowbird.—I have always considered the Cowbirds as playing the character of sneak, when necessity compelled them to seek out the nest of their feathered kin, but in view of the following incident I feel somewhat dubious.

Toward the end of May, 1911, a pair of Sennett's Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus sennetti*) built their semi-pensile nest, composed almost entirely of fibers from stem or leaf of Spanish Dagger,¹ Palmetto² and Banana, in or rather attached to a vine-stalk of a Rosa de Montana,³ that shaded the library windows of our house from the morning sun. Therefore, the position of the nest allowed easy observation at all times. Early one morning, after the complement of three eggs had been laid, and were being brooded, a female Red-eyed Cowbird (*Tangavius æneus involucratus*) was noted on the ground near the site of the nest. Its restless manner held my attention, and within a very few moments the cause was apparent. Walking to the base of the vine-stalk supporting the nest it flew upward several feet then grasping the stalk continued its vertical progress, at the same time flapping the wings vigorously, thereby producing considerable noise. Reaching a point well within a foot of the nest—or about six feet above ground—it arrested progress, but continued the wing movement. Although this needs have perturbed the setting Oriole, she never once quitted her treasures. After a period of a minute or thereabouts the Cowbird flew away. Two days later the same scene was reacted, only, on this occasion, the departure of the Cowbird was due to the appearance of the male Oriole on the scene. The nest was examined at various times thereafter and it never held more than the rightful contents. Two eggs eventually hatched, but the young never left the nest alive, being destroyed by some mammal, possibly the Texas Opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis texensis*) a serious enemy to bird-life in southern Texas.—AUSTIN PAUL SMITH, *Brownsville, Texas.*

The Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) Wintering in New Jersey.—An immature male of this species was found dead and frozen stiff in Haddonfield, N. J., January 16, 1912, and brought to me by my nephew, Henry

¹ *Yucca treculeana*.

² *Inodes texana*.

³ *Antigonon leptopus*.