

the crack of a gigantic whip, only deeper, mellower and more voluminous. These evolutions were continued for fully ten minutes, when the vast flock began to settle into the evergreens for the night somewhat after the manner of Chimney Swifts dropping into a chimney. Then something, perhaps a hawk or a squirrel, would disturb them after nearly all the birds had secured a perch, and with a roar that was really awe-inspiring the whole flock would again take flight, circle over the trees for a few moments and again alight. This performance was repeated perhaps half a dozen times by all or a part of the flock until, just at dusk, they settled into the trees to rise no more that night. But they kept up an incessant chatter resembling the sound made by a locomotive in the distance blowing off steam, and it was long after dark, before this sound wholly died out. People interested in bird study came long distances to witness this sight.

It is possible this flock of Starlings may have been the cause of the Purple Grackle remaining here all winter. The weather was mild down to February 1. They did not seem to suffer for food until then. They associated with the Starlings until well into February, when they seemed inclined to flock by themselves. February, with its snow and low temperatures, alternating with warmer conditions, was rather hard on them, but a great deal of food was put out for them by people of the town, and they weathered the month out pretty well. Indeed, they seemed to suffer more from the bad weather which prevailed after the usual date of their arrival here from the south than they did prior to that time.

William R. Mercer, Jr., who resides at 'Aldie,' informed me that in the middle of January, following a snowstorm, he found thirty dead Purple Grackles and two or three dead Starlings at the roosting place. He estimated the total dead Purple Grackles there for the entire winter at about 40. The excrement from the roosting flock was in such quantity that it was hauled away in carts and was sufficient to fertilize a considerable area of ground.—GEO. MACREYNOLDS, *Doylestown, Pa.*

Evening Grosbeak at Birdsboro, Pa.—I would like to report the presence of a male Evening Grosbeak on the Brooke Estate, Birdsboro, Berks Co., Pa., on April 15, 1917. On April 22, accompanied by a party of students, I again saw what was apparently the same bird at the same place.—G. HENRY MENGEL, *Reading, Pa.*

The San Lucas Sparrow (*Passerculus rostratus guttatus*) in California.

—Among some sparrows collected by the writer and sent to the U. S. National Museum are nineteen skins of this subspecies, a form not hitherto recorded from California. One male was obtained at Anaheim Landing, Orange County, Oct. 5, 1916, and eighteen skins, of both sexes, were collected at Sunset Beach, Orange County, between November 13, 1916, and January 31, 1917. A few examples of true *P. r. rostratus* were collected with them. The birds were identified by Mr. H. C. Oberholser.—EDWARD J. BROWN, *Los Angeles, Cal.*