

Raven at Elizabeth, N. J.—A Withdrawal.—In 'The Auk,' Vol. XXXVIII, p. 121, the writer reported the occurrence of two Ravens (*Corvus corax principalis*) on an "island" on the local salt marshes on May 31, 1919. This record was based on an observation which is described as follows in my notes of the above date: "On May 31 [1919] on Great Island, Newark meadows, I saw two Ravens, the first I have seen in New Jersey. I first saw them sitting in a dead tree, quite close by, and was struck by their large size. I thought they were big Crows at first, for at times a Crow attains unusual size, and some appear very large under certain atmospheric conditions. But these were too big even for big Crows. There was no Crow to compare them with but as they flew off they passed a Sparrow Hawk which was hovering nearby, and the Hawk looked like a midget. The Ravens appeared to me fully as large as a Fish Hawk and their long bills were noticeable."

I still have a clear mental picture of the comparison of those two big Crow-like birds and the Sparrow Hawk, and the relative sizes then noted have never been approached in the many comparisons I have made since in the field between Crow and Sparrow Hawk. However, in discussing this record with ornithologists of American Museum of Natural History, I find a general hesitancy to accept it as scientifically established in view of the extreme rareness of the Raven in this region, the unusual date for such a record and my failure to distinguish the shape of the feathers on the throat and the wedge shape of the tail, or to hear the characteristic call. In view of this uncertainty I consider it best to withdraw the record as positively established, regardless of any confidence I may have as to its accuracy.—CHARLES A. URNER, *Elizabeth, N. J.*

Cowbird-like Behavior of Red-winged Blackbird.—Two instances of unusual procedure and Cowbird-like behavior on the part of probably the same, female Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*) were noted during the 1922 nesting season. A nest of Bell's Vireo (*Vireo belli belli*) in a hazel thicket held one egg of the rightful owners on June 9. On the twelfth there were two Vireo eggs and two others, one of a Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*) and one which was attributed to a Red-winged Blackbird. The eggs of the interlopers were removed but an examination of the nest on the fifteenth found it empty and deserted. About twenty pairs of Red-wings constituted a near-by colony nesting throughout a strip of hazel brush that bordered on a lake, several nests with eggs being within a few rods of the Vireo nest and the selection of that very small structure in which to deposit a chance egg seemed merely an incident. But on June 16, some two or three hundred yards distant and across one end of the lake where there were no Red-wings nesting, was found another Bell's Vireo nest containing two Cowbird eggs and one of the Red-wing. The Vireos scolded at the intrusion as the alien eggs were removed but they failed to later use the nest. The Red-wing eggs are remarkably similar in detail and it would appear that they were deposited by the same bird.