

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.

The three Cowbird eggs, moreover, are enough alike to be accredited to one female. Assuming this, and bearing in mind the close relationship, could it have been that the Red-wing, possibly accompanying the Cowbird while on her egg-laying rounds, became a subject to suggestion?—HAROLD M. HOLLAND, *Galesburg, Ill.*

The Glossy Cowbird (*Molothrus atronitens*) in Barbados.—During a few months investigation of the birds of this island, in the winter of 1921–22, I became convinced that several new species had been introduced and had become breeding residents since Feilden (*Birds of Barbados, Ibis*, p. 447, 1880), Cory (*Birds of the West Indies, Auk*, 1886–1889) and other authors (about the same time), wrote on this subject. I propose to say something, later, in more extended 'Notes on the Resident Birds of Barbados'; meantime I wish to report briefly on one of these recent immigrants not listed by any of the writers above mentioned. I refer to *Molothrus atronitens*.

Shortly after my arrival in Barbados and while watching a large feeding flock of the only "Blackbird" known to Feilden, *Holoquistulus fortirostris* (Lawr.), I saw, also feeding in the same meadow, an allied but different species of Blackbird. They were smaller, and showed distinct variations in plumage. Above all, they had no traces of yellow about their eyes. In looking through Dawson's 'Hand-List of the Birds of British Guiana,' 1916, it struck me that the Rice Bird (Lazy Bird as the natives style it) closely resembled my new acquaintance, and I finally felt sure that the Guiana species, with which I was familiar, was closely allied to, if not identical with the bird I then saw in Barbados. After interviewing such local naturalists and others most likely to give me reliable and definite information about the stranger, I concluded that this species, the nearest limits of whose range had hitherto been set down as the island of Carriacou, some 200 from Barbados, had first been seen on the latter island some ten years before. My most effective aid in establishing the fact of this introduction, as well as in proving the dispersal of the species throughout the island, was Mr. H. P. Bascom of Bridgetown. At my request he has written me the following notes, with which my own observations and investigations agree:—"I first noticed the strange Blackbirds in 1916, when only a few could be seen on the South East of the Island—above the Marine Hotel and in that section. There they did not multiply to any great extent, but later they invaded the yards of the Sugar Plantations in search of food, around the feeding troughs of horses and mules; and soon thereafter they began to increase. At present they may be seen singly, in pairs or in flocks of from about 50 to 150; and they have found their way into the stores in the busiest streets of the town. Entering through even the barred windows at the back of these stores, they clean up all the stray grains of corn, oats, rice, etc., and they can daily be seen perched in the rafters whistling and apparently quite at home. These birds are often seen on lawns and pastures, and are very fond of oats."