

scene of most of my investigations and it seems strange that there should be any doubt or contradiction as to the color of the eyes of this species. Yet it is evident that confusion does exist and I have received letters from northern ornithologists asking for first hand information on this very subject, as they state that little or nothing can be found on it in ornithological literature. Perusal of my own limited library bears out this assertion. Only in the 'Birds of America' of the Nature Lover's Library, published by the University Society, New York, 1923, Editor-in-Chief, T. Gilbert Pearson, does any information appear and the color of the iris in *major* is there listed as "light yellowish."

Major Brooks makes the statement that in this species the iris "is always dark brown" and it is this assertion which is utterly at variance with all the observations I have made for many years. As I have seen it the iris in *major* is invariably yellowish in the male bird. It differs in shade, running from lemon yellow to a deep straw color but *always* yellowish and so distinct that it may be seen at a considerable distance. I have called this fact to the attention of numerous visiting ornithologists and not one had failed to note it, indeed, they could not but see it. In females of *major* the iris is sometimes yellow but usually a light brown which, at some distance, gives the appearance of being dark. Young males have a brownish iris but immediately lose it on attaining full plumage and assume the yellow. I have asked Messrs. Herbert R. Sass and Edward S. Dingle about this matter as they are just as familiar with *major* locally as I am and they expressed surprise that there should be any doubt about the yellow eye.

In regard to Major Brooks' statements that *macrourus* is a noisier bird than *major* and that they seem more inclined toward human habitation, I cannot say, never having studied the former but if there is any noisier bird than the Boat-tailed Grackle it must be a seven-days wonder. This species comes freely into towns and cities along the South Carolina and Georgia coasts and is a daily sight in abundance, nesting commonly in close proximity to houses in Georgetown and Beaufort, South Carolina and Brunswick, Georgia as well as the city of Charleston. And everywhere one finds it the bird calls, croaks, screams, groans, clacks, grunts and shrieks in never ceasing din. However, the Great-tailed Grackle may excel it in these points but as to the color of the iris I take exception. I have yet to see a male bird of *major* which lacks the yellow eye. Like Major Brooks I reiterate the request that others voice their observations on this matter.—
ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., 92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.

Bohemian Waxwings in Colorado.—It is highly probable that the 1930-1931 invasion of the northern parts of the United States by Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrula*) was not nearly of the magnitude of that of 1916-17, yet it was widespread in Colorado, and also in large numbers.

Only one locality in the State, usually reported upon by my friends, exhibited none of these birds during the last winter. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. J. Bailey of Walden, Colorado (North Park) believe that their neighbor-

hood was not visited by Bohemian Waxwings during the past six months because it is practically, for miles, treeless and hence devoid of food for any Waxwings that might reach and pass through it.

It would look as though these birds travel from the far north along the Rockies, and on reaching the latitude of Colorado, debouch out on to the plains via the rivers and creeks arising in the mountains. Some of the facts relating to last winter's Waxwing invasion recorded by my co-workers lend color to this belief. It is known that flocks occurred in high areas, for Mr. John Weldon of Loveland, Colorado, noted some on Baldpate Mountain, Estes Park, Colorado, on December 16, 1930.

The earliest recorded arrival date of this species in Colorado was that of November 9, 1930, flocks appearing at that time at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Weldon located next to the foothills bordering the mouth of the Big Thompson River Canyon, a river arising in the high peaks encircling Estes Park.

The wave of southward sweeping Bohemian Waxwings must have been large and wide for the birds appeared on the Pacific slope at Fruita, Colorado, on the Grand River, on November 25, 1930, their first appearance recorded by Mrs. Anna Benson, whose home is in Fruita. These Waxwings extended, in Colorado, at least as far east as Fort Morgan for Mr. Edw. Hellstern first saw them there on November 10, 1930.

The foregoing records show that the southward advancing wave of Waxwings in this State was at least two hundred and fifty miles in width, probably having a fairly even distribution of individuals over much of this territory.

Mrs. W. B. Berger of Denver was one of the first observers to note Cedar Waxwings mixed with the flocks of their larger cousins, first seeing a mixed flock at her home on December 4, 1930. One other observer, Mr. Hellstern of Fort Morgan also saw such mixed flocks, one containing not less than fifty Cedar-birds on December 1, 1930.

A report from Mrs. H. E. Mierow of Colorado Springs, Colorado says that Bohemian Waxwings were seen in her home area more or less constantly during the December and January just past. Mrs. Mierow's observations fix the known southern limit of this winter's Bohemian Waxwing invasion in Colorado as far, at least, as her home city. It is safe to assume, from the notes sent to me by my obliging correspondents, that the area invaded by these birds during the past winter extended north and south from Loveland to Colorado Springs (125 miles), and east and west from Fort Morgan to Fruita (250 miles). These data make it easy to see that the Waxwing visitors spread over an area at least 30,000 square miles in extent. The birds were probably fairly evenly distributed over this terrain since flocks were seen and studied at ten more or less widely separated localities located within this large square-mileage.

As in 1916-17 the flocks promptly stripped the local Russian olive trees of their berries, ate any other fruits growing on ornamental trees and shrubs,

consumed hanging apples, and when these natural foods failed, found sustenance at garbage pails, and from food put out for dogs.

The birds of this winter's visitation were extraordinarily tame, often permitting so close an approach that the "wax" tips to the wing feathers became apparent.

Waxwings were last seen on the eastern slope of the Rockies, at Loveland on April 10, 1931, and on the western slope of the mountains at Clifton on April 5, 1931.

A résumé of the localities in Colorado where the Bohemian Waxwings were seen during the past six months, with the observer's name, and the dates when first and last seen is as follows:

Loveland; Mrs. John Weldon; November 9 and April 10.

Fruita; Mrs. Anna Benson; November 25 and March 19.

Clifton; Mrs. Anna Benson; last seen April 5.

Denver; Mrs. W. B. Berger; first seen December 4.

W. H. Bergtold; last seen March 6.

Fort Morgan; Edw. Hellstern; November 10 and January 24.

Estes Park; J. H. Weldon; seen only on December 16.

Littleton; Mrs. R. J. Kerruish; December 17 and March 20.

Colorado Springs; Mrs. H. E. Mierow; December 8 and March 10.

Fort Collins; Mrs. Clara Gordon; December 22 and March 24.

Ione; Mrs. T. C. Forward; January 15 and March 19.

My appreciation and thanks are now expressed to all these obliging friends who have helped make this summary possible.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) in Southern New Jersey.—On May 16, 1931, in company with Mr. Arthur C. Emlen, I saw a brilliant specimen of the Prothonotary Warbler on the Egg Harbor River, at "Fourways" Cabin above Mays Landing, N. J. We studied it for some fifteen minutes as it flew in and out of the bushes ahead of our canoe.—WITMER STONE, *Acad. Nat. Sciences, Phila.*

Brewster's Warbler at Lancaster, Pa.—On May 8, 1931 at Long's Park, just outside Lancaster City, I was lucky enough to obtain a very fine view of Brewster's Warbler (*Vermivora leucobronchialis*). I believe this to be the second record of this bird in this county. I think Dr. H. H. Beck of Lititz, Pa., has a record of it some years ago.

This individual was marked like a typical Golden-winged Warbler but with a white throat and a small black line through the eye. The song resembled that of the Golden-wing—*ze-ze-ze-ze-zwee*—the last note dropping two full tones.

Instead of the usual one or two records of the Hooded Warbler, this spring, I have three of my own and five or six reports of it in the county dating from about May 4 to 10.—W. STUART CRAMER, *44 E. Orange St., Lancaster, Pa.*