

Florida *major* has the iris brown in both sexes, cf. Ridgway, Maynard, Fuertes, Townsend, Brooks.

Further north *major* has a pale yellow or straw-colored iris, notably in South Carolina.

*C. m. mexicanus* in Southern Texas always has a straw colored iris, except probably in the extreme juvenile.

What color are the irides of birds occurring in Louisiana and Northern Texas?

In deciding the question of specific separation Dr. Townsend's records of the great dissimilarity of the courting actions must carry great weight.

Is it possible that the birds from South Carolina to Southern Texas are conspecific while the Southern Florida bird is distinct?

The implication of polygamy in Mr. Pennock's concluding paragraph also calls for investigation. Seraglios are always interesting. Is it possible that we have at our very doors an Icterine with the fascinating habits of an *Oropendola*?—ALLAN BROOKS, *Ohanagan Landing, British Columbia.*

**Color of the Eyes of the Boat-tailed Grackles in Florida.**—In reference to the color of the iris in the Boat-tailed Grackle recently discussed in 'The Auk' I would say that from personal field observations of the male and female about Orlando, the Kissimmee Prairie, Merritt's Island, and various parts of central Florida, I have found that the eyes of this bird are quite dark and show no signs of yellow or white irides at very close range.

As late as October 4, 1931, while on a visit to Mosquito Lagoon to the Pelican Rookery on an island on this body of water, I had the opportunity of viewing a male Boat-tailed Grackle at close range through a powerful field glass and the eyes showed absolutely no traces of yellow or white, but appeared to be of a very dark brown or black color. My companion, Mr. Hallman of St. Augustine, Florida was asked to verify my conclusions and stated emphatically that he could discern no trace of yellow and that the color certainly was dark brown. Please bear in mind that this was during the winter. I could not say whether or not the bird was one of the year or an old adult male, but it did have the full plumage.

I have been familiar with the bird for over thirty years and have never noted any yellow in the iris of either males or females of this species and have had ample and most excellent opportunities to observe them at close range. I have not killed any of the birds to make closer note of the colors but I most certainly would have noticed any yellow coloring in the eyes had there been any present.

From what I can gather from the controversy there is a difference in the eye-color in different parts of the country, and if both Pennock and Townsend are correct about the Charlotte County birds it occurs in the same district, and during the same time of the year, which would either mean that there are two species or that the age of the bird is responsible. However, this does not satisfactorily explain why the Charleston, S. C., birds all have white or yellow eyes. Perhaps a sub-specific separation is necessary.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Florida.*