

**Color of the Iris in the Boat-tailed Grackle.**—In discussing the discrepancies in observations on the color of the iris in the Boat-tailed Grackle in the October 'Auk' Dr. Townsend wonders whether there may be a seasonal change in the color of the irides while Mr. Pennock offers the suggestion that Major Brooks and others have made their observations on females and immature males, in which the irides are dark brown. Personally, the writer inclines toward Mr. Pennock's view of the case. Nevertheless, it is not easy to understand why, even in the short study of the bird, the adult males would fail to make an appearance, for they are just as much in evidence as are the immature males and females. This is the writer's experience at least. In regard to a seasonal change, the writer can state positively that no such thing occurs along the South Carolina coastal region. Adult males of *C. m. major* have yellow, or yellowish, irides throughout the entire year, of this, there can be no doubt at all. This being so, it is hardly reasonable to suppose that such a change exists in Florida, or anywhere else in the range of the bird. The writer can only reiterate his own experience with this bird since boyhood days, and that he has yet to see an adult male which has brown irides. The color is invariably yellowish in all of that sex seen from Wilmington, North Carolina to Indian River City, Florida.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., 92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.

**Color of the Iris in Grackles.**—Recent issues of 'The Auk,' have contained various opinions regarding the color of the iris of the Boat-tailed Grackle (*Cassidix mexicanus major*). While not familiar with this species in life, the writers, for the past ten years, have banded and handled in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Massachusetts, several hundred Grackles, (*Quiscalus q. quiscula* and *Quiscalus q. aeneus*), approximately eighty per cent of which have been immature birds.

We have noted with interest the variations in the color of the eyes of these young birds, and have made careful records of them. Invariably the youngest birds (age determined by size, lack of black in plumage, character of feathers, etc.)—possess a dark brown iris. With the acquisition of black to the feathers, the iris becomes correspondingly paler in shade. Late summer immatures often have eyes of grayish green. This color presumably precedes the straw yellow eye which we have always found in adult birds. Never have we handled an immature grackle with yellow eyes, and the few immatures with brown eyes (when banded) which "returned" to the traps at subsequent dates, possessed yellow eyes when recaptured.

It seems reasonable to suppose that the above facts might pertain also to *Cassidix mexicanus major*, a close relative of the species mentioned above.—MABEL AND JOHN A. GILLESPIE, Glenolden, Pa.

**The Dwarf Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis minimus*) in St. Lucia.**—On July 5, 1931, in the Aux Coin Swamp near Vieux Fort, at the extreme southern end of St. Lucia, I observed at close range a singing