

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

male and two female *Molothrus bonariensis minimus* (Dalmas). A succession of heavy showers was occurring, and the few cartridges I had with me were so wet and swollen that it was impossible to collect the birds. This was much to my regret, as it is apparently the first time that the species has been recorded from St. Lucia. However, its occurrence is not surprising, as it seems to be rapidly extending its range in the West Indies. Originally a resident of South America and Trinidad, within recent years it has invaded Grenada, where the exact date of its first occurrence is not recorded; then the Grenadines, where according to Wells (Auk, 1902, p. 347), it was first seen on Carriacou in June, 1899; and then Barbados where Wood (Auk, 1923, p. 128) states on the authority of Mr. H. P. Bascom of Bridgetown, Barbados, that it was first seen in 1916.—STUART T. DANFORTH, *College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.*

Occurrence of the Eastern Savannah Sparrow in West Virginia and Maryland in Summer.—During the course of investigations into wild life relationships under the McSweeney-McNary Act, I spent two weeks this past June in West Virginia and was rather interested to find the Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*), a common summer resident both in the northeastern corner of this state and in the adjoining part of Maryland. On June 20, while eating lunch at the edge of the swamp in the Glade at Cranesville, Preston County, W. Va., I heard the first bird singing in an open field close by. Being unfamiliar with the song, I at first thought that a Grasshopper Sparrow had developed a little originality in expressing itself, but this idea was dispelled on collecting the bird. Later in the day I heard others at frequent intervals in the open fields and pastures about Cranesville and at Terra Alta, females being seen at the latter spot carrying food for young that apparently were hardly out of the nest. The following day I was sufficiently interested in the status of this sparrow here to search more or less thoroughly the open fields about Oakland, Garrett County, Maryland, approximately ten miles east of Terra Alta, and I found my suspicions justified when few fields proved to be without at least one pair of these birds. This is, I believe, the first record for the occurrence of this species in West Virginia during the summer months.—THOS. D. BURLEIGH, *U. S. Biological Survey, Appalachian Forest Experiment Station, Asheville, North Carolina.*

The First Eggs of Scott's Seaside Sparrow.—Twenty-one years ago this last spring I made my first attempt to find a nest of Scott's Seaside Sparrow. I had just made the acquaintance of the veteran ornithologist R. D. Hoyt, of Clearwater, Florida, and in checking over with him the desirable nests yet to be found he spoke very enthusiastically about Scott's Sparrow. It seems that when Mr. Scott was collecting in Florida many years before he had given him the exact location of the marsh in which the type specimen had been taken. Hoyt and I made a trip in May, 1910, to the marsh near Tarpon Springs, and after many hours of hard