

more than 20 birds on three different days, using fresh birds each day, and in every case, the iris change was noted as above.

This fact may cause those who are dividing the Boat-tail Grackles into sub-species on account of the color of the eyes to make some further investigation. Personally, I have come to the conclusion that there is nothing in the color of the iris to warrant a sub-specific division.—E. A. McILHENNY, *Avery Island, La.*

Nesting of Boat-tailed Grackle and Blue-winged Teal in Delaware.

—I saw a single Boat-tail Grackle (*Cassidix mexicanus major*) near here in 1930 and last year (1933) found a pair near Cedar Beach on April 29, while on May 5 I found four pairs and a nest containing three eggs. It was built of coarse marsh grasses lined with finer grass, nine inches by seven with the cavity four by five and a half inches. It was situated in a cedar tree about twelve feet up. On June 18, 1933, I saw three groups of young, one of four and the others three. In the spring of 1934 these Grackles again nested.

I found a nest of the Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*) on May 11, 1933, in a fairly dry marsh near the Bay, with eight eggs. The male kept flying around and whistling but the female did not flush until I was within ten feet of the nest. In May, 1934, another nest with eggs was found by a visiting ornithologist.—HERBERT BUCKALEW, *Milford, Del.*

Purple Grackle Wintering at Newport, R. I.—On January 4, 1934, I watched an apparently uninjured Purple Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula quiscula*) in my small garden in Newport, R. I., where it had remained through the early winter. The below zero weather seems to have had a very weakening effect on the bird and since then he has had great difficulty in flying. While Bronzed Grackles remain late in the autumn I have never before found a Purple Grackle in winter.—A. O'D. TAYLOR, *Powel Ave., Newport, R. I.*

Further Occurrence of the Bronzed Grackle in Northwestern Montana.—In 'The Auk' for April, 1932, the writer recorded the first known occurrences of the Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*) west of the continental divide in Montana: two birds having been seen on June 22, 1927, and one on April 22 and 23, 1929, at Fortine.

Since that time these additional records have been obtained by the writer in the same locality: one bird was observed May 8 and 10, 1933; and two were noted October 2, 1933.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana.*

Cowbird Notes from Tennessee.—At Radnor Lake, near Nashville, Tennessee, on July 9, 1933, Harry C. Monk and the writer located a unique nest of the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus l. ludovicianus*). The brooding bird was flushed disclosing four eggs, three of the owner and one of the Eastern Cowbird (*Molothrus a. ater*). It is noted that Dr. Fried-

mann, in 'The Cowbirds,' lists this Wren as "a very uncommon victim" of the Cowbird.

In this, the only instance the writer has recorded, the location of the nest was unusual, and easy of access to the Cowbird. The almost perfect globe of green moss was set in a three-point fork in the main stem of a small American elm, about eight feet from the ground. Except for a partially concealing cluster of poison ivy leaves, the nest was quite conspicuous. It would be interesting to know whether other records of the victimizing of the Carolina Wren have occurred in abnormally placed nests only, or whether the Cowbird occasionally seeks out the usually well-hidden normal nest situation.

The date given above for the Cowbird's egg is the latest of which the writer can find record for the Nashville region, the next latest being May 30, 1920 (Harry C. Monk). The Cowbird's egg and two of those of the Wren contained small embryos. The third Wren's egg had a small hole chipped in the shell and the contents were decomposed.

On July 29, Dr. J. M. Shaver and the writer noted a flock of about 100 Cowbirds in which, according to the writer's notes, "the females and immatures outnumbered the males four or five to one." Evidently very little nesting takes place as late as the date recorded above, since the young in the above mentioned flock were all well grown.—COMPTON CROOK, Boone Training School, Boone, North Carolina.

A Summary of Cowbird Host Species in Ohio.—Since 1918, the writer has kept a nearly complete count of all bird nests located and brief notes on those containing eggs or young of the Eastern Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*). During parts of eight summers spent in Ashtabula County, northeastern Ohio, nearly 5000 nests were located. About 2740 others were found in Franklin County, central Ohio, about 2435 in Knox County, north-central Ohio, and about 3320 elsewhere in the state. These totals are increased by several colony nesting species which are not parasitized by the Cowbird. Also many were of bank, cavity or tree-top nesting species, the nests of which could not be fully examined. The number of parasitized nests depended to some extent upon the nature of the field work being done at the time, but for the most part upon the abundance of Cowbirds, the abundance of the host species, the ease with which the nests were located, and the extent to which each species was parasitized in the region. Most of the nests were examined but once, so many of them may have been parasitized after finding, or Cowbird eggs or young may have been destroyed before the finding of the nest.

A total of 42 species served as hosts. In the list below those known to have been actually successful in raising young Cowbirds in at least one instance, have been starred. Dr. Herbert Friedmann writes that the record of the Henslow's Sparrow is the first reported for the western race. All hosts were of the order Passeriformes except the Mourning Dove. No Swallows, Titmice, Woodpeckers, Wrens, Waxwings, Catbirds, or Robins,