

Dept. Cons. Bull. 28: 599, 1938) states: "The Boat-tailed Grackle is an abundant permanent resident of the Gulf Coast region of southern Louisiana . . .", and he reports no record of it except in close proximity to salt water. On January 7, 1949, about two miles north of Anchor, Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana, while in company with Robert J. Newman, the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, I shot a male Boat-tailed Grackle. The point at which this bird was taken is approximately 70 miles from the coastal marshes and it is the first time, as far as available records indicate, that this species has been reported at such a distance from that area.

While I was a resident of Vicksburg, Mississippi, from November, 1940, until April, 1948, I was never able to encounter the Ground Dove. Since I was afield on the average of once each week during that period, I came to the conclusion the bird was exceedingly rare in that area. On January 9, 1949, a male Eastern Ground Dove, *Columbigallina p. passerina*, was brought to me from my Vicksburg friend, Thomas Murphy, who had shot the bird that day on State Highway No. 3, at a point 22 miles northeast of Vicksburg, Warren County, Mississippi. Burleigh in 'The Bird Life of the Gulf Coast of Mississippi' (Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool., La. State Univ., No. 20: 386, 1944) states: "The presence of the Ground Dove as a transient in southern Mississippi was totally unexpected. So far as I am aware there are no actual breeding records for the State. Therefore the birds that appeared each fall in southern Mississippi must have come from the east, rather than from the north. Howell (1924) gives the status of this species in Alabama as 'a local and rather uncommon resident in the southern third of the State.' From personal experience I am of the opinion that this statement applies also to Georgia. Therefore, it is difficult to understand why a species considered resident within its range should appear with such regularity each fall on the Mississippi coast, and why there should be this tendency to migrate west rather than south into Florida. The fact remains, however, that each year the Ground Dove appears in October, and is seen at frequent intervals on the mainland and on the islands until the latter part of December. It apparently does not remain throughout the winter for I have no records for either January or February." In view of the foregoing, the Vicksburg record is interesting.

In each of the above three instances skins were made and the specimens turned over to the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, at Baton Rouge.—MERRIAM L. MILES, 2350 Daytona Beach, Florida.

**Date of John Abbot's Bird Plates in the De Renne Collection.**—In 'The Auk' (35: 271-286, Pl. IV, 1918), Samuel N. Rhoads reported on a collection of Abbot's bird paintings in the De Renne Georgia Library near Savannah. From characteristics of the paper on which the pictures were drawn, Rhoads thought that they were "made several years prior to those described by Dr. Faxon" (Auk, 13: 204-215, 1896). The latter illustrations were labelled "largely in accord with the nomenclature of Wilson's 'Ornithology'" and one bore Abbot's signature and the date "1810". The volume in the De Renne collection containing Abbot bird paintings bore on the spine the legend, "Birds of Georgia, 1797." That this date is incorrect is clear from the artist's labelling which consists very largely of the vernacular and technical names of Wilson, which were not available until the period of publication of American Ornithology, 1808-1814. Such examples as the "Great Heron. *Ardea herodias*" and the "Wood Ibis. *Tantalus loculator*" agree with names in Volume VIII, 1814, of Wilson's work. The prevalence of Wilsonian nomenclature throughout the series indicates that the pictures were labelled, and thus probably made, after the several volumes of the American Ornithology were completed.—W. L. McATEE, Chicago, Illinois.