

On February 28, 1953, I observed a fledgling cowbird sitting on a branch of an *Avicennia* tree and uttering constantly its chirruping, begging call. After a short while a *Conirostrum* approached with a small insect which it fed to the cowbird. I collected the cowbird (coll. no. 1326, Leiden Museum).

This is the second case of a cowbird parasitizing *Conirostrum bicolor*; the first one being reported by Friedmann (Auk 55, 1938, p. 44) on authority of Smooker who found, on July 18, 1932, in the Caroni Swamp on Trinidad, a nest of *Conirostrum* with two eggs of a Cowbird, but none of the host. However, this record seems not wholly satisfactory, if we compare it with the remarks by Belcher and Smooker (Ibis 1937, p. 520) on the nesting of *Conirostrum bicolor* in which some doubt is left by the authors themselves about the identity of the nests they attributed to this species.—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, P. O. Box 644, Paramaribo, Surinam.

***Quiscalus lugubris fortirostris* in Surinam.**—On November 27, 1952, I was walking along the sea coast near Galibi (Surinam), just west of the mouth of the Maroni River, when suddenly a flock of five birds alighted in some dead shrubbery on the beach. The birds seemed exhausted and immediately gave me the impression of migrants having just arrived from the sea. For this reason, I collected two of them which proved to be *Quiscalus lugubris*. I sent both specimens (♀♀ coll. nrs. 1255 and 1256) to the American Museum of Natural History at New York, and my suspicion that they might not belong to our local breeding race was substantiated as Dr. Zimmer informed me (*in litt.*) that both of them were *Q. l. fortirostris*, the race inhabiting Barbados.

What is even more interesting is that there is in the same institution another specimen of *fortirostris* from Surinam in the Penard Collection, taken on October 3, 1921, near Diana Creek (as far as the label could be deciphered, but a locality unknown to me in Surinam).

Dr. Zimmer agrees that the circumstances attending the appearance of the small flock at Galibi from which I collected two specimens certainly suggest that the birds were vagrants just arriving. According to Bond (Check-List of birds of the West Indies. 1945, p. 143), *fortirostris* breeds on Barbados, was probably introduced on St. Vincent, was introduced and is now established on Barbuda and Antigua, and is said to have been introduced on St. Kitts. Mr. Bond, whom I informed about my experience, agrees (*in litt.*) that the small flock I met at Galibi probably consisted of vagrants from Barbados and now believes that the St. Vincent records of *fortirostris* also pertain to vagrants. He further tells me that the Barbadian Grackle is definitely not a migrant in the ordinary sense, for it is abundant on Barbados throughout the year. It is relatively more numerous than any other race of *Q. lugubris*, and this may account for its proclivity for vagrancy.

Our local race in Surinam, *Quiscalus l. lugubris*, occurs in quite a different habitat from that in which I found the birds at Galibi. It frequents lagoons and inundated areas, providing there is open water with scattered bushes and trees. In this rather restricted habitat it is numerous.

On September 24, 1953, I again visited the coast near the mouth of the Maroni River but I could not find a trace of any *Quiscalus*.—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, P. O. Box 644, Paramaribo, Surinam.