

occasionally; but once, when patience ceased to be a virtue, she pursued a noisy robin. The male was dedicated to the chase and would leave immediately after delivering his plunder. Naturally his arrivals were extremely irregular. The best record noted was on June 7 when, besides an early call, he brought in between 7 A. M. and 2 P. M. two lizards and two mice.—F. C. HOLMAN, *Berkeley, California, November 28, 1925.*

"Evidence" in the Case of the House Wren.—On page 242 of the November CONDOR there appears editorial comment on the soundness of Mr. Baldwin's statements on the fallibility of evidence from a legal standpoint, in the case of the House Wren. With all deference to Mr. Baldwin, both as a naturalist and a lawyer, I would like to point out that in his own evidence in defence of the wren he admits that most birds mob it or recognize it as an enemy. Is not this very strong evidence of its destructiveness? Other birds do not attack Catbirds, Robins, Red-headed Woodpeckers or other species which he considers should share the odium attached to the House Wren, nor do they in my experience recognize the English Sparrow as an enemy except when he is actually engaged in destroying their homes.

This almost universal recognition of House Wrens, Jays, and Grackles by most small birds as objects to be attacked and vituperated is surely the best of all evidence of their destructiveness, based on centuries of experience by the sufferers. Also the fact that Mr. Baldwin has numbers of birds nesting in the vicinity of his wren boxes is not actual evidence that he would not have many more if the wrens were not encouraged. In this connection the experience of Dr. A. A. Allen with his nesting Screech Owls should be considered. The resident nesting population was not appreciably lessened in spite of the tremendous slaughter perpetrated in the immediate vicinity by the owls.

I am not a lawyer but as a humble juror I could say of Mr. Baldwin's plea, "no evidence for the defence."—ALLAN BROOKS, *Nanaimo, British Columbia, November 21, 1925.*

Nesting of the Great-tailed Grackle in New Mexico.—There are but few authentic records of the occurrence of the Great-tailed Grackle (*Megaquiscalus major macrourus*) in New Mexico. Mr. R. T. Kellogg has collected the bird near Silver City (Condor, vol. 24, 1922, p. 30), and it has been reported from the Rio Grande Valley, near Las Cruces.

In all of my travels, extending over a period of more than ten years, I have not seen the bird in the Rio Grande Valley, either of New Mexico or Texas; but I have known of a single occurrence at Fort Stockton, Texas, about 250 miles southeast of El Paso. On July 21, 1924, I collected a female, in the molting plumage, in the Pecos Valley of New Mexico, about 35 miles south of Carlsbad; this was the first time I had seen the bird in the state.

On July 24, 1925, to my surprise, I found a breeding colony of these birds in a marshy, cat-tail filled draw, eight miles south of Carlsbad. At the point where these birds were located the Carlsbad-Malaga Highway parallels the railway line, only a wire fence separating the two right-of-ways. While passing along the road I noticed a male grackle, with the conspicuous drooping tail, flying low from a nearby cotton field to the cat-tail filled drain I had just crossed about 200 yards back. I stopped my car and walked back to the draw. On the roadway is only a low concrete bridge, while just above is a twelve-foot trestle where the railway line spans the drain. The thick cat-tails extended above and below as far as I could see, from a few feet wide at places to more than 150 feet at the widest points.

By the time I had reached the trestle a half dozen of the adult grackles, which were protesting my intrusion, were in sight, perched on the low telegraph posts and wires (which offered excellent look-outs) and on the cat-tails nearby. Great numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds were also sitting about. The unusual luxuriance of the cat-tails offered excellent protection for the birds; a little water was visible here and there in the bogs where the cattle had eaten down the grass. As I moved about quietly, I discovered several young grackles in the cat-tails, almost as large as the parent birds and flying easily. The adult birds that arrived after I returned to the nesting site, held food in their beaks. It was difficult to determine just how many birds were