

Now, with the above opinions before me, and after an examination just made of all the molothrine material in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (166 skins) in connection with the Dickey-van Rossem description, I am compelled to conclude that *californicus* is not usefully recognizable, having been based upon a sort of mosaic of intergrades. Indeed, this situation is quite what the reader gathers from the remarks of the authors of this name, themselves. To re-state the case as I now see it, I could do no better than use the words quoted above from Willett.

To return to the two birds from Oakland, the measurements I give above show the female to be even smaller than the average of a Colorado River valley series (for measurements of this, see Grinnell, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., 12, 1914, pp. 159-160). The male, however, is larger with respect to wing and tail than any Colorado River example, but is identical in size with specimens from Owens Valley, these latter clearly being intergradient between *artemisiae* and *obscurus*. As to coloration, the female is a bit more slaty in its dark tones than Colorado Valley examples, but the latter, even of approximately the same season, are obviously more worn; as is well known, progressing wear carries gray toward brown. I cannot see that the obscure, narrow streaking below is any more emphasized than in some southeastern birds. In the male the brown color of the head is darker than in most Colorado River males, and there is a faint iridescent "wash" over it; but I suspect that a little wear and fading from strong sunlight would reduce these features to a perfectly equivalent condition.

To repeat, then, the newly-acquired specimens from the San Francisco Bay region would seem to decide the name Dwarf Cowbird (*Molothrus ater obscurus*) as the one best to use for the race of that area along with western and southern California generally.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, June 10, 1934.*

**The Cowbird Breeds in Berkeley.**—On June 9, 1934, we captured a young Cowbird (*Molothrus ater obscurus*) near Sather Gate on the University of California campus. It was being attended by a Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*). To our knowledge this is the first record of the Cowbird in Berkeley and also the first record of the Western Flycatcher as a host for this species.

We first saw the Cowbird on June 8 in the trees bordering Strawberry Creek. While we were watching it the much smaller Western Flycatcher approached and fed it. Our attempts to capture the fledgling by hand were failures because the young bird flew too well. The Western Flycatcher was most solicitous of its charge, expressing alarm at our presence, driving away a Robin, a Titmouse, and some Bush-tits which were attracted by the fledgling's begging calls, and feeding it at frequent intervals. The flycatcher followed the Cowbird more often than the Cowbird followed the Flycatcher.

The fledgling was a male weighing 26.5 grams. Its gullet and stomach contained a mass of insect remains which included two ladybird beetlets and a syrphid fly. The specimen is now no. 64966 in the collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.—SETH B. BENSON and WARD C. RUSSELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, June 15, 1934.*

**The Nesting of the Double-crested Cormorant at Lake Bowdoin, Montana.**—Because of a recent inquiry about the breeding of Cormorants in Montana I am placing the following note on record. The first time I visited Lake Bowdoin, June 19 to 22, 1932, and the last time, June 18 to 23, 1933, we found ten or twelve pairs of Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*) nesting on Woody Island. Probably



Fig. 38. Nestling Double-crested Cormorants at Lake Bowdoin, Montana.