

Grackle Kills Warbler.—Mr. E. A. McIlhenny (Auk, 54, 1937:186-187) has remarked on the bird-killing propensities of the Boat-tailed Grackle (*Cassidix mexicanus major*) in Louisiana. From the following incident it seems that the closely related Great-tailed Grackle (*Cassidix m. mexicanus*) in Mexico is equally guilty.

Just outside a wide upper window in my study a large avocado tree grows, some parts spreading over the roof. On the afternoon of May 9, I was looking out the window, attracted by the song of a Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*). I saw the male and female, who presently voiced alarm. Trying to ascertain the reason for this I soon saw two male grackles concealed in the inner heavy foliage. On looking more closely among the upper branches I saw the nest of the warblers. At just about the same time a grackle spotted the nest, hopped over to it and looked in. At this instant the female warbler dashed into its face whereupon the grackle, by a quick thrust of its bill, seized the unfortunate bird. At this point I gave a shout, causing the grackle to release the bird, but I was too late to save its life. Its skull had been crushed. The grackles flew away.

The warbler's nest I later found to contain two eggs, and the female had a fully formed soft egg in the oviduct.—CHESTER C. LAMB, *Irapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico, May 9, 1944.*

The Santa Cruz Island Flicker.—The Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer*) has long been known to be a resident, though in limited numbers, on Santa Cruz Island. Little effort has been made to collect specimens, on the general assumption, probably, that they were similar to the widely distributed race *collaris* of the mainland, although as early as 1887, E. W. Blake, Jr. (Auk, 4, 1887:329), reported one of the distinguishing characters. Up to the present time I have been able to locate only twelve specimens of the resident form, all, so far as I know, which exist in American collections, institutional or private. There are two in the United States National Museum, taken July 16, 1892, and June 8, 1895, by C. P. Streater and R. H. Beck, respectively; one (in post-juvinal molt) in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, taken September 2, 1903, by Joseph Grinnell; five in the Los Angeles Museum, four of which are full-plumaged winter birds taken by John Hornung in November and December, 1917, and one juvenile taken by J. C. von Bloeker on August 15, 1939; and four in the Dickey Collection taken by A. J. van Rossem in late March, 1920.

It had been my hope to revisit Santa Cruz Island and obtain more specimens but transportation difficulties make this out of the question for some time to come. On the basis of the material now available I propose recognition of the island flickers as a distinct race to be known as

Colaptes cafer sedentarius, new subspecies

Santa Cruz Island Flicker

Type.—Male, presumably adult, number H-476, Dickey Collection; Prisoners' Harbor, Santa Cruz Island, California, March 23, 1920; collected by A. J. van Rossem, original number 5139.

Subspecific characters.—Wing and tail average distinctly shorter than in *Colaptes cafer collaris* (Vigors) of the Pacific slope of California. General coloration about intermediate between *C. c. collaris* and *C. c. cafer* of the Pacific Northwest, but with crown brighter and more rusty red and hind neck browner (less grayish) than either. Eight males measure: wing, 152-165 (159.1); tail, 102-115 (108.5) mm.

Range.—Santa Cruz Island, California.

Remarks.—Individual and seasonal variations common to all races of this species are apparent in the present case. Fall and winter specimens are of course the darkest and worn specimens the palest. Among flickers from other geographic areas, the closest approaches in general coloration are seen in a good series of *cafer* from western Oregon (Dickey Coll.), which average paler than *cafer* from the Puget Sound region and also tend to brownish, rather than vinaceous or pinkish tones on the lateral underparts, and in *Colaptes cafer rufipileus* Ridgway of Guadalupe Island. Individual variation in the crown of *sedentarius* ranges from slightly duller than the average for *collaris* and *cafer* to a redness fully equal to that of *rufipileus*. Indeed were it not for their larger size it would be rather difficult to distinguish five of the Santa Cruz birds from the last named.

Mainland flickers, both red- and yellow-shafted (specimens of the former in Los Angeles Museum), occur in winter and spring on Santa Cruz, sometimes in large numbers. During my own visits in 1910 and 1920, yellow birds were vastly in the majority on the first occasion and red birds on the second. All of these were extremely wild and no specimens were taken, although it must be admitted that no special effort was made in that direction. On the other hand the two (probably mated) pairs collected in 1920, were remarkably tame and stayed at all times in groves of trees near my camp. It may be recalled that I once (Condor, 25, 1923:127) stated that these individuals were typical of *collaris*. This comment referred specifically to the wing and tail coloring (as opposed to the yellow-colored birds of the 1910 visit) although such is not entirely clear in the preceding text.