

41, 1939:217) saw grackles south of Isleta, Bernalillo County, on May 5, 1939, and surmised that they might be nesting. I had the colony that Peterson reported under observation from April, 1938, to September, 1942, and he was correct in his guess that the birds were nesting. The presence of this species along the Rio Grande north of Las Cruces is a considerable extension of its previously reported range and the details of its occurrence are worth recording.

On April 12, 1938, a male Great-tailed Grackle was seen at Elmendorf, 18 miles south of Socorro, Socorro County, and five males were seen at a pond one mile south of Isleta. On May 8, 1938, one male was seen one mile north of Isleta and 12 males and 5 females were found at the pond south of Isleta. A female collected at the pond on this date had enlarged ovaries, the largest measuring 10 mm. in diameter. This specimen is no. 86711 in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and has been identified by Dr. Alden H. Miller as *Cassidix mexicanus prosopidicola* (see A.O.U. Check-list Supplement, Auk, 61, 1944:460).

During the period of these observations, the pond at Isleta was shallow and weedy with a rank growth of cattails (*Typha*). It was frequented by many species of aquatic birds. The pond was visited again on June 12, 1938, and the grackles were found nesting in a dense patch of cattails at its west side. There were five grackle nests in these cattails: one with 2 eggs; one with 3 eggs; one with 2 newly hatched young; and two that were empty, but excrement about their margins indicated that they had contained young birds. Four young grackles, able to fly awkwardly, were perched in the cattails near the empty nests.

Great-tailed Grackles were seen at the Isleta pond each summer from 1938 to 1942, but I did not again search for their nests. The pond was not visited at regular intervals, and dates of seasonal arrival and departure of the birds are only approximate. In 1939, there were no grackles at the pond on March 22, but on April 2, two males were seen. In 1940, Mr. Barney Hodgkin of the Soil Conservation Service saw about twelve grackles at the pond on March 13, and on March 16 I saw one male. A flock of about 25 was seen at the pond on November 10 and again on November 16, 1940. One male was seen November 30, 1940. On November 16, 1940, ten grackles were seen in trees alongside the highway 3 miles south of Los Lunas, Valencia County.

This species nests and also winters at Las Cruces, New Mexico. A flock of 20 was seen in trees near the Loretta Academy in Las Cruces on January 16, 1940. On January 18, 1940, a flock of approximately 200 was found at the south edge of the town, and on January 21 flocks of 10 to 30 birds were seen within the town. This grackle also winters and nests in Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. I saw adults and young in the trees of the plaza at Juarez on May 31, 1940, and found adults there in January, 1931.

Mr. Adrey E. Borell of Albuquerque, New Mexico, reports to me that on May 15, 1943, he observed a male Great-tailed Grackle at a pond on the Ojo del Espirita Santa Grant, 18 miles northwest of San Ysidro, Sandoval County.

In summary, the Great-tailed Grackle nests one mile south of Isleta, which is about 170 miles north of Las Cruces and Carlsbad, where previously it was known to nest. The farthest north that it has been seen in New Mexico is 18 miles northwest of San Ysidro.

I am indebted to Dr. Alden H. Miller for identification of the grackle specimen and to Mr. Adrey E. Borell for allowing me to use his observations.—LAWRENCE V. COMPTON, *Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D.C., November 1, 1946.*

**Anna Hummingbird at Play.**—I had an interesting experience with a hummingbird while watering my garden in Benicia, California, on June 13, 1946. Frequently I have enjoyed watching a hummer flit through the spray while watering in my yard with the garden hose. On this occasion the water was flowing from the hose in a solid stream about three-quarters of an inch in diameter. A hummingbird, an adult female Anna (*Calypte anna*), flitted alongside the flowing stream and eyed it, then dipped her bill into the stream of water, not apparently drinking as she did not open her mandibles. Then she took a position facing the stream, brought both feet forward and dipped them into the water. Finally she came at right angles to the flow and attempted to light on it as though it were a twig or limb and rode down the stream a way, repeating this stunt over and over again.

When she flew away, I remained motionless holding the hose, suspecting that she might return. This she did after a brief interval and went through almost the same maneuvers, apparently enjoying her fun as much as I enjoyed watching her.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, June 13, 1946.*

**The Blue Goose in Yolo County, California.**—C. G. Fairchild, United States Game Management Agent, of Sacramento, California, has just brought my attention to the following significant record. On the afternoon of January 8, 1946, Joe Patterson of Elk Grove, Sacramento County, California, killed a Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) in a rice field near Sycamore Slough, Yolo County. This bird had been feeding with a mixed flock of Snow and White-fronted geese in a field between