

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Supplemental Data on the Sex Ratio in Nestling Boat-tailed Grackles.**—In a recent paper (Condor, 62, 1960:34–44), I have shown that the nestling sex ratio in the Great-tailed Grackle (*Cassidix mexicanus prosopidicola*) in Texas does not exhibit significant deviation from a normal Mendelian ratio of 50:50 (table 1). This finding raised a serious doubt concerning the validity of an earlier report by McIlhenny (Auk, 54, 1937:274–295, and Auk, 57, 1940:85–93) of a nestling sex ratio strongly unbalanced in favor of females (2.51 females to 1 male) in the Boat-tailed Grackle (*Cassidix major major*) in Louisiana. But, since it was recently discovered that the two grackles are separate genetic systems, being full species rather than merely races as previously supposed (Selander and Giller, Condor, 63, 1961:29–86), it seemed desirable to examine the nestling sex ratio in *C. major*.

TABLE 1  
SEX RATIO IN NESTLING GRACKLES

Form and locality	Number of nests	Number of nestlings	Males	Females
<i>Cassidix mexicanus prosopidicola</i>				
Central and SE Texas	65	136	72	64
<i>Cassidix major major</i>				
Sabine Refuge, Louisiana	28	76	38	38
Mixed sample <sup>1</sup>				
Near Vinton, Louisiana	14	32	14	18
<b>Totals</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>120</b>

<sup>1</sup> Nestling not identified to species; probably includes equal numbers of both species.

Between June 2 and 10, 1959, 21 nestlings of *C. major major* were collected at the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, Cameron Parish, Louisiana. An additional sample of 55 nestlings was obtained in the same area on June 1 and 2, 1961. Dissection of these 76 nestlings showed a precisely equal sex ratio (table 1), thereby confirming my previous supposition that McIlhenny's figures were based on a faulty method of sex determination in which sex was judged by relative body size rather than by examination of gonads.

In both species of *Cassidix* it is now apparent that the existing imbalance in the tertiary (adult) sex ratio, in which females outnumber males, results not from a corresponding imbalance in the primary or secondary sex ratios but from differential mortality in the sexes beyond the nestling stage of development. The significance of this fact in relation to sexual dimorphism and the promiscuous, colonial breeding system of these grackles will be discussed in a forthcoming report on the biology of *Cassidix*.

I wish to thank Mr. Kent E. Myers, Director of the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, for assistance in obtaining nestling grackles. This study was supported by the National Science Foundation (G-15882).—ROBERT K. SELANDER, *Department of Zoology, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas, June 5, 1961.*

**Golden-winged Warbler in Southern California.**—On October 23, 1960, a small warbler, conspicuous by a yellow patch on each wing and by its habit of hanging head downward in chickadee fashion from the branches, was sighted in the top of a sycamore tree in Montecito, Santa Barbara County, California. The next morning (October 24) the same or a similar bird was collected within two hundred feet of the place where it had been seen the previous day. Mr. Egmont Rett, Curator of Birds and Mammals at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, who prepared the specimen, pronounced it a first-year male Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), very fat and in good plumage. The skin is deposited in the Santa Barbara Museum collection (no. 4326). A search of the literature at hand failed to reveal a reference to this warbler from California. Dr. Alden H. Miller has informed the writers (correspondence, January 3, 1961) that he does not know of a prior record of occurrence of the Golden-winged Warbler in California or in any other Pacific coast state.—CHARLES H. RICHARDSON and ALICE I. RICHARDSON, *Santa Barbara, California, February 16, 1961.*