

- May 9 Female. Some very small feathers on chin at base of lower bill.  
 May 10 Two, a male and a female—no moult.  
 May 16 Female. Some new feathers on cervix, jugulum, and sides of neck.  
 Male. No moult.  
 May 17 Female. Two or three new feathers on cervix.  
 Three, one male and two females—no moult.

M. J. MAGEE, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, November 30, 1929.

**Grackle Recoveries.**—Several records of grackle recoveries have already appeared in issues of this *Bulletin*. In Vol. II, January, 1926, Charles B. Floyd lists the following Bronzed Grackles banded in Auburndale, Massachusetts, and taken later at other points:

Banded	Recovered
Sept. 2, 1925	Wellesley Hills, Mass. Sept. 24, 1925
Oct. 20, 1923	New Haven, Conn. Nov. 13, 1923
Sept. 11, 1922	Elizabeth, N. J. Nov. 7, 1922
Aug. 13, 1925	Benns Church, Va. Nov. 29, 1925

He notes that this indicates a southwesterly migration along the Atlantic coast. In Vol. IV of the *Bulletin*, April, 1928, Dr. E. G. Rowland reports a Bronzed Grackle banded June 6, 1926, at Norwich, Connecticut, killed in Tyner, North Carolina, December 23, 1927.

Since Mr Gillespie and I have been banding Grackles for a number of years on Martha's Vineyard, the geography of their migration has interested me considerably. It would be possible for them to move in a northerly or westerly direction to the mainland and then follow the coast of Long Island or Connecticut west and New Jersey south. This seems the more logical route, yet it is a fact that as the Grackles gather in summer flocks on the island they slowly move south toward Edgartown. This suggests the possibility of an overseas flight in a southwesterly direction toward the New Jersey coast.

Before giving the results of our two Grackle recoveries, it may be well to state that Purple, Bronzed, and intermediate blends of Grackles breed on Martha's Vineyard. During the summer, when the young birds are still dull brown in color, it is impossible to distinguish between the subspecies by any means which we have yet discovered. Therefore, by permission of the Biological Survey, the immature Grackles are banded without definite identification. Whether the migration routes would necessarily vary for Purple and Bronzed Grackles is not known, but I should be inclined to think not, because of the prevalence of intermediate hybrids.

An immature Grackle banded on Martha's Vineyard, August 12, 1927, was killed by a cat at Newport, Rhode Island, November 22, 1927. This is a bit late compared with the dates given above along the theoretical migration route, but the fact that the bird was caught by a cat suggests the possibility of its lingering behind the flock because of some physical incapacity. The proof that it had traveled west from the island to the mainland is the important detail. The bird was reported as being brightly marked with purple when caught, but as it was first incorrectly reported as a Starling we cannot be sure that it was of the subspecies *quiscula*.

Another immature Grackle banded on Martha's Vineyard July 17, 1925, was shot in Caroline County, Maryland, along the marshes of the Choptank River. This region is on the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay. The following is quoted from the letter written us by the man who shot the bird:

"I was hunting and these grackles flew by; in the bunch was a pure white bird and I shot it, but when I did several of the grackles fell, too, and one was banded,—the one which I sent in. These grackles were of the bronzed type or species, but we have the purplish species also. Many people shoot them for food, and in fact they make an excellent dish. The

grackles seem to be a very friendly bird, and one can almost get near enough to catch one. In the lower section of our County near the river there are many of these birds, but away from the water I have never seen one."

These two recoveries give a little added weight to Floyd's theory of the southwesterly migration along the Atlantic Coast.—MABEL GILLESPIE, Glenolden, Pennsylvania, November 3, 1929.

**Returning Western Birds.**—It is important to enumerate the species and races of birds which return to their nesting-grounds or to their wintering-grounds, and more particularly, from a biological standpoint, to the same spot where they were born, nested, or wintered. When a group of birds wholly or in large part returns to the same spot, either to nesting- or to wintering-grounds, the biological significance of such behavior increases greatly.

In *News from Bird Banders*, published quarterly by the Western Bird Banding Association Vol. IV, Oct. 1929, p. 33, John McB. Robertson writes that Carl Levingston, of Redlands, California, has had returns of fifty-one Gambel's Sparrows, five Golden-crowned Sparrows, one Fox Sparrow (race not given), 10 Song Sparrows (race or races not given), and nine Audubon's Warblers. The nesting- and wintering-ranges of these species are indicated on small-scale maps in the "Field Book of Birds of the Southwestern United States," by Wyman and Burnell, from which we learn that the Gambel's, Golden-crowned, and Fox Sparrows, and Audubon's Warblers were on their wintering-grounds when banded. From Levingston I have secured more detailed information regarding the years the birds were banded and returned, as well as other data of interest, which perhaps can be intelligibly condensed in tabular form as follows:

Species	Scientific Name	Number Banded	Season of Banding	Number Returns	Season Returning	Per cent Returning	Remarks
Gambel's Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia l. gambeli</i>	106	1926-27	18	1927-28	17.00 (approx.)	During 1928-29 7% returned.
Gambel's Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia l. gambeli</i>	279	1927-28	46	1928-29	16.50	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia coronata</i>	17	1927-28	5	1928-29	30.00 (approx.)	
Fox Sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	2	1927-28	1	1928-29	50.00	Race not given.
Audubon's Warbler	<i>Dendroica a. auduboni</i>	57	1926-27	3	1927-28	5.30 (approx.)	Of these three returns, one was a return-2 W in 1928-29.
Audubon's Warbler	<i>Dendroica a. auduboni</i>	45	1927-28	8	1928-29	17.77	

The word "return" may be used in the manner in which it has been employed by the *Bulletin of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association* and also to cover cases of returns having somewhat different ornithological significances, such as appear in Mrs. Gillespie's paper in this number of *Bird-Banding*.