

Northern Mockingbird on Mona Island, Puerto Rico.—For four months prior to November, 1951, visitors to the small island of Mona, approximately 50 miles west of Puerto Rico, reported the presence of a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) on the eastern part of the island. On November 5, 1951, the bird was collected and presented to me. It was prepared as a museum specimen and is now in the collection of the Biology Department of the College of Agriculture of the University of Puerto Rico. This bird, probably a young male, apparently represents the race *M. p. orpheus*. This is the first record of a Mockingbird from Mona Island. —VIRCILIO BIAGGI, JR., *Biology Department, College of Agriculture, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, January 24, 1952.*

Loggerhead Shrike with malformed bill.—Abnormalities of the bill are fairly



frequently noted in birds. Often these abnormalities interfere with feeding sufficiently to cause the bird to be in poor condition.

The accompanying photograph shows a Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) which seemingly has suffered little although almost completely lacking the upper mandible. The bird, which we photographed in a mesquite tree three miles east of Casa Grande, Pinal County, Arizona, on March 11, 1947, was active and appeared to be in good condition. We judged it to be a female, since it was the only one of the pair seen incubating the eggs. The shrike was fed by its mate as it sat on the nest.—BERNARD AND EMILIE BAKER, *Route No. 1, Judson Road, Spring Lake, Michigan, November 1, 1951.*

Post-juvénal wing molt in the Bobolink.—According to Dwight (1900. *Annals N. Y. Acad. Sci.*, 13:156) and subsequent authors, the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) differs from all other Icteridae of eastern North America, except the genus *Icterus*, in

having a partial rather than a complete post-juvinal molt. The molt is said by Dwight to take place (in New York) in July, and to involve the body plumage, tertials, and wing coverts, but not the rest of the wings nor the tail.

On September 5, 1951, I collected a Bobolink about two miles west of Etna, Tompkins County, New York. This specimen showed a number of peculiarities. Although September 5 is by no means the latest fall date for this species in central New York, most of the Bobolink migration usually takes place earlier. The bird in question was the only Bobolink seen, and was associated with a migrating flock of Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). Examination of the specimen showed it to be an immature male, with the cranium incompletely ossified and testes about one-half millimeter in diameter. The bird was in heavy molt in all tracts of body plumage, with many feathers of the juvenal plumage still evident on the underparts. Specimens in the Cornell collection confirm Dwight's dating of the post-juvinal molt of New York Bobolinks; this bird was thus over a month late in its molt. In addition, the two outermost primaries of each wing were sheathed and only about half-grown. The bilateral symmetry of this molt would seem to discredit accidental loss as an explanation for this replacement of primaries. All of the other remiges were fully grown and showed no sheathing, so it is difficult to state whether they, too, had been replaced. Examination with a hand lens showed that the remaining primaries and the secondaries showed no more wear at the tips than the tertials, which definitely belonged to the first winter plumage. It is thus possible that this individual Bobolink replaced all of its remiges in the post-juvinal molt. The rectrices were considerably worn; apparently none had been replaced.

The condition of this specimen suggested that a re-examination of the post-juvinal molt of the Bobolink was warranted. I therefore checked all of the pertinent specimens of this species in the considerable series in the American Museum of Natural History. Only a single immature specimen was found which showed indications of a molt of the flight feathers. This specimen (AMNH 98205), also a male, was picked up under the lighthouse at Fire Island, New York, by L. S. Foster on September 1, 1888. Through the kindness of Charles O'Brien, I was permitted to take this specimen to Ithaca to compare it with mine.

There is no statement as to age of the Fire Island specimen on the original label. Judging by color, however, it definitely appears to be in first winter plumage, evidenced particularly by the color of the tertials (which are more contrastingly and richly colored in adult winter specimens). Body molt appears to have been completed; no old feathers nor sheathed new ones were found. In this specimen not only the two outermost primaries but also the innermost (sixth) secondaries are sheathed, although almost fully grown. As in the other specimen, all of the remiges are unworn and appear new. In the Fire Island bird, however, the rectrices too appear to have been replaced, as they show almost no wear at the tips.

Dr. Ernst Mayr informs me that the post-juvinal molt in passerine birds is so variable in extent, even within families, that it is impossible to attribute any evolutionary significance to the presence or absence of a complete molt. It is interesting to note, however, that, while the *failure* to complete a molt would not be particularly surprising, especially in an unhealthy bird, we have here the case of two individuals which molted feathers that are normally retained until the following spring. These two individual Bobolinks thus displayed a molt pattern abnormal for their species but typical of most of the rest of their family.—KENNETH C. PARKES, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, January 10, 1952.*