

*Zuisalus
guiscula*

SB 97.41.9(27)

v. 30

Summer Bds. Restigouche Valley, N. B.
July, '83. J. Brittain and P. Cox, Jr.

Quiscalus quiscula. BRONZED GRACKLE.—Very rare.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 117

Birds within Ten Miles of Point
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam

43. Quiscalus purpureus. CROW BLACKBIRD.—Rare. Sometimes
seen in flocks in spring.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 236

Last Dates Migratory Birds observed by
E. D. Wintle, Fall 1885, Montreal, Can.

Sept. 17. Purple Grackle,

O. & O. XI. Mar. 1886. p. 44.

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.
A. H. Alberger.

511b. Crow Blackbird. Common. Breeds.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 87

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

58. *Quiscalus purpureus*, (Purple Grackle). A few seen at North Anson in the village streets. They evidently bred in the vicinity, but we did not remain a sufficient length of time to investigate.

O. & O. XI. Nov. 1886. p. 161

Note on the Bronzed Grackle in Maine.— Mention should be made, I think, of the increase in the numbers of the Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula œneus*) in and about Portland, Maine, since it was recorded,¹ many years ago, as "rare,— even in the migration uncommon." It is nowadays one of the common species of this part of southwestern Maine, and during the migration periods sometimes occurs in large flocks. On April 13, 1915, I saw at least six hundred birds together in the town of South Portland. The possibility suggests itself that more than one geographical race may be represented in such an increase. Recent specimens in evidence are lacking.— NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

Auk XXXIV, Apr. 1917, p. 210.

March 8. Crow Blackbird;

Spring arrivals at Dartmouth Mass
H. H. Dexter.

O. & O. XI. Apr. 1886. p. 52.

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Sept. 3 - Small
flocks of Purple Grackle are occasionally seen,

O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886. p. /

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Aug. 20; Crow Blackbirds are becoming gregarious,

O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886. p. /

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Nov. 1; the Purple Grackles still remain, though
not in such large numbers as two weeks ago.

O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886. p. 2

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Quiscalus quiscula (Linn.), Purple Grackle.
Summer resident, common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 140

Hartford Note

March 5, Crow-blackbirds

Harry T. Gates.

O. & O. VIII. Jan. 1888. p. 8

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Lusitotus quiscula(?)

- June 3^d 4th Fairfield
" 5th 6th 7th 9th 10th 11th 12th } Saybrook
" 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th }
" 19th 20th
" 21st Vernon. Vernon
" 22nd 24th Andover. Andover

The reference of the Grackles which we saw in Conn. to the form quiscula is a poor assumption for we examined no specimens except one in Clark's collection & that was an intermediate nearest cinereus in the fall. At Saybrook we noticed that the voices of the Grackles differed from those of our cinereus being higher & more cracked precisely as with quiscula at Washington, D.C.

The birds were common everywhere & very generally distributed but we met with no large colonies. On the contrary the birds seemed to be widely scattered, breeding singly or two or three pairs together, usually in or near villages where there were cultivated crops. There were then or four pairs feeding young in the cemetery at Saybrook. Clark says they nest in orchards also. They were the great marauders of the nests of the Redwing & can kill cinereus.

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Grounds, Brooklyn. G. H. Coates

49. *Quiscalus versicolor*. CROW BLACKBIRD. — Seen occasionally.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 32

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

84. *Quiscalus purpureus* (Bartram) Lichtenstein. PURPLE GRACKLE.
—Breeds. Not common. I have found it along the Fulton Chain in June.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct., 1881, p. 231

Notes, Shelter Island, N. Y.
W. W. Worthington.

Crow Blackbirds came the 5th, of March.

O. & O. X. May. 1885. p. 40

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

March 6, *Quiscalus quiscula*, (511). Purple
Grackle.

O. & O. XI. July. 1886. p. 109

Albinism and Melanism in North
American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

Q. purpureus, has been taken in albinistic plumage.

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 22

May 23. A nest containing three young Crow Blackbirds, all of which were albinos, was found by a boy, who saw the old bird feeding the young, the old bird being in normal plumage. One of the albinos is mounted in my collection. The color is a very pale drab, or cream-color.

W. H. H. Shelton Island, N. Y.
O. & O. IX. Feb. 1884. p. 24

ALBINO BLACKBIRD. Theodore Hoffman,
Rockville, Conn., May 15, 1883, shot a
male Crow Blackbird with a white throat
and cheeks with a few white feathers scat-
tered over the body. It was first seen in
the Spring. O. & O. VII. Sept. 1883. p. 72

The Singing of Birds. E.P. Bicknell.

THE CROW BLACKBIRDS.

The Grackles are unaccountably erratic in their visitation to my neighborhood, and my notes on their vocalization are meagre and unsatisfactory.

It may be said, however, speaking of the Crow Blackbirds broadly, without distinction between the Purple and the Bronzed varieties, that they are to be numbered with the birds which have their voice in the autumn. I have heard their squeaky song-notes in October, as late as the 23d. *Auk*, 2, July, 1885. p. 253.

1885.

April 27. A colony of about thirty about a thicket of cedars and white pines in the Smithsonian grounds. They were very tame strutting about over the turf their burnished liveries gleaming and glistening in the sunlight. The females were collecting dry grass and taking it up into the trees to line their nests, all of which were in red cedars, usually near the top of the tree. Numerous English Sparrows were nesting in the same trees and the two species seemed to be on fairly good terms. The ♂

The Purple Grackle and the Robin Laying in the Same Nest.

On May 12, 1888, I took a set of four eggs from what I supposed to be a Purple Grackle's (*Quiscalus purpureus*) nest, but upon examining the eggs I found two of them to be Robin's (*Merula migratoria*), and two Grackle's. I had frequently seen the Robins and Grackle fighting, and knew the former had a nest in the tree, but thought it was in another part.

In other years they have both nested together in the same tree, but I never before knew the Grackles to altogether displace the Robins. The nest, which, unfortunately, I did not save, was in a large pine tree close to our house. It looked as if it had been built by Robins and then completed by the Grackles to suit their taste. The bottom was made of mud, which Grackles do not use, while the top was made of twigs and roots which Robins do not use. Another thing which would indicate that the Grackles drove the Robins away was the fact that the Robin's eggs were considerably incubated, while the Grackle's were nearly fresh. With all their well-known mischievousness, I have never before heard of the Grackles being accused of usurping other birds' nests.

F. L. Homer.

New Hamburg, Penn.

O. & O. XIV, June, 1889 p. 88

Variation in the Nesting Places of the Purple Grackle.

In the New England States the typical nesting places of the Purple Grackle (*Quiscalus purpureus*) is among the thick evergreen trees, but occasionally in a few localities the nest is built like that of the Redwing, in low bushes over or near water.

A third instance of its nesting differently from the usual manner came to my notice at Newburyport, Mass., on May 16, 1889. This time a pair of Grackles had chosen as a nesting site a cavity in a dead branch of a tall button-wood tree where they seemed to be perfectly contented, although a number of their kind were nesting in the typical manner within fifteen rods.

The variety *ænis* is, I believe, frequently found breeding in a like manner, but I am unaware that the type is known to show similar traits here in New England.

Harry Gordon White.

Gloucester, Mass.

O. & O. XIV, Sept. 1889, p. 139
Birds Tioga Co. N. Y. Alden Loring.

278. Purple Grackle or Crow Blackbird. Common. Arrives in large flocks about the middle of March. About the last of April nest building commences. This is placed in a pine or evergreen tree. It is rudely composed of dried grass, strings and rags, and is lined with fine roots. The dimensions of the nest are 3 3-4 in. wide and 3 3-4 deep. The eggs, usually four or five in number, are of a light blue color spotted and scrawled with dark brown and obscure lines and spots of different shades of brown. As the first week in October draws near these birds congregate in immense flocks and leave for the south, sometimes in company with Redwing Blackbirds.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 84

Grackles were very noisy, calling incessantly thak thak, the-ek, tsak, tsa-tsa-tsa, all their notes being harsher, harder, and sharper than the corresponding ones of B. virens.

The Purple Grackle and the Robin Laying in the Same Nest.

On May 12, 1888, I took a set of four eggs from what I supposed to be a Purple Grackle's (*Quiscalus purpureus*) nest, but upon examining the eggs I found two of them to be Robin's (*Merula migratoria*), and two Grackle's. I had frequently seen the Robins and Grackle fighting, and knew the former had a nest in the tree, but thought it was in another part.

In other years they have both nested together in the same tree, but I never before knew the Grackles to altogether displace the Robins. The nest, which, unfortunately, I did not save, was in a large pine tree close to our house. It looked as if it had been built by Robins and then completed by the Grackles to suit their taste. The bottom was made of mud, which Grackles do not use, while the top was made of twigs and roots which Robins do not use. Another thing which would indicate that the Grackles drove the Robins away was the fact that the Robin's eggs were considerably incubated, while the Grackle's were nearly fresh. With all their well-known mischievousness, I have never before heard of the Grackles being accused of usurping other birds' nests.

F. L. Homer.

New Hamburg, Penn.

O. & O. XIV. June. 1889 p. 88

Variation in the Nesting Places of the Purple Grackle.

In the New England States the typical nesting places of the Purple Grackle (*Quiscalus purpureus*) is among the thick evergreen trees, but occasionally in a few localities the nest is built like that of the Redwing, in low bushes over or near water.

A third instance of its nesting differently from the usual manner came to my notice at Newburyport, Mass., on May 16, 1889. This time a pair of Grackles had chosen as a nesting site a cavity in a dead branch of a tall button-wood tree where they seemed to be perfectly contented, although a number of their kind were nesting in the typical manner within fifteen rods.

The variety *anus* is, I believe, frequently found breeding in a like manner, but I am unaware that the type is known to show similar traits here in New England.

Harry Gordon White.

Gloucester, Mass.

O. & O. XIV. Sept. 1889 p. 139

Birds Tioga Co, N. Y. Alden Loring.

278. Purple Grackle or Crow Blackbird. Common. Arrives in large flocks about the middle of March. About the last of April nest building commences. This is placed in a pine or evergreen tree. It is rudely composed of dried grass, strings and rags, and is lined with fine roots. The dimensions of the nest are 3 3-4 in. wide and 3 3-4 deep. The eggs, usually four or five in number, are of a light blue color spotted and scrawled with dark brown and obscure lines and spots of different shades of brown. As the first week in October draws near these birds congregate in immense flocks and leave for the south, sometimes in company with Redwing Blackbirds.

O. & O. XV. June, 1890, p. 84

PURPLE GRACKLE (*Quiscalus Purpureus*), commonly known as "Crow Blackbird." During a visit to Plum Island, the home of the Osprey, it occurred to us that the Crow Blackbird was not at all particular where its nest was placed. On this island there are immense quantities of this bird and their nests were in every conceivable position. Under every Fish Hawk's nest that were in trees, there were from one to five or six nests of the Crow Blackbird. Wherever the Osprey's nest had rotted off the top of the pepperidge tree it left a cavity in the top of the trunk into which this Blackbird placed its nest. They were also very plenty in the trees alone and also in the bushes within two feet of the ground. On the main land we have found them singly on maples by the roadside; also saddled on the limbs of immense elms, in the topmost branches; also in Norway spruces, both small and large. Wherever circumstances favor it they breed in colonies. We know of one aged white pine that contains from fifty to one hundred nests each year, making it appear like an immense bee-hive, as the birds were continually flying to and from the tree. During a recent visit (May 17) to the home of Willis P. Hazard, of Westchester, Pa., where the Crow Blackbirds were breeding very plentifully in the long, horizontal branches of the white pines on the lawn. There was nothing unusual in this, but we noticed in the woodbine that twined around the piazza posts, a large nest, unusual for such position. It was just out of reach, but a step-ladder enabled us to look into the nest, which was filled with young Crow Blackbirds. The family and visitors were continually passing under this nest.

○ & ○ VII Jul. 1882. p. 144

On a Collection of Eggs from
Georgia, H. B. Bailey,

37. *Quiscalus purpureus*. PURPLE GRACKLE.—Nests in trees, seldom in the salt marshes; eggs three or four. April 15.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Jan, 1883, p. 39

In visiting a colony of Purple Grackles I found another curious set. There is no doubt of their identity for I saw the female on the nest, which was a common P. G's nest. There were four eggs; three of them dark brown, scratched, mottled and blotched all over with darker brown. The fourth was a light olive green, with large blotches of light brown or bronze. There were no scratches of any kind on this egg and all the colors were very light, though entirely different from a normal Grackle egg, as well as from the other three. An experienced collector to whom I showed one of the dark eggs (without telling its history) pronounced it a Nighthawk's (*Chordeiles popetue*) egg. I don't suppose this is a new species, but it certainly is a curious freak of nature.

Chas. D. Gibson, Renovo
Pennsylvania.
O. & C. VIII. Nov. 1883. p. 88.

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Aug. 23; this morning I was the witness of a spectacle of which I have often heard, but never had noted before. Looking from my window shortly after dawn, I saw several Robins, which by their actions were in great distress. On looking about to see the cause of this outcry, I perceived in the top of a tall elm a Purple Grackle, who appeared busy over something which he held in his claws. On nearer investigation I found this to be a young Robin, which he was devouring with great eagerness. The glutton was evidently satiating his hunger, and by the time the tender morsel was in his stomach he must have been decidedly replete. For such feats of cannibalism he merits a good dose of the leaden pellets wherever he is met. O. & O. XI, Jan. 1886, p. 1

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Oct. 11;- Towards night a large flock of Purple Grackles passed over us towards their roost near the "clay beds." At this time we were within forty rods of their nightly abode and the noise was fairly deafening. Two or three of their number stood higher upon the trees than their companions, as if keeping sentinal duty. In a moment another flock came sailing over the trees and swelled the tumult until the air seemed turbulent with the racket. By skillful manœuvres we managed to get directly underneath them, and the air seemed filled with hundreds of revolving wheels, all decidedly in need of lubrication.

O. & O. XI, Jan. 1886, p. 2

The Purple Grackle as a Bee-Eater.

BY L. O. PINDAR.

In my note book for Nov. 7, 1887, is the following, which notes a trait of the Purple Grackle. I have never heard of it before, and therefore send it to the O. AND O., thinking it may be new to some other readers of that paper.

"Several days ago, a neighbor's little girl caught a Purple Grackle which had been slightly wounded, and made a pet of it. It is now so tame it may be trusted to go all around the yard. This morning, I saw it, (the grackle), standing in front of the bee-hive, and on closer inspection found that it was eating the bees as fast as they came out of the hive. I am afraid the Purple Grackle will have a hard time in the struggle for existence if he does not behave better. Mr. C. H. Andros has already recorded (O. AND O., Jan. 1886), an instance of one devouring a robbin. As it is, they are eagerly sought after by many embryo hunters, some of whom consider a blackbird stew a delicacy. The same holds true with Robins and Cedar birds." O. & O. XII, Dec. 1887 p. 205.

ANALECTA ORNITHOLOGICA.

Fourth Series.

BY LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

XVII. ON THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD *Quiscalus*.

THE words *Quiscalus* of Vieillot and *quiscula* of Linnæus* seem to have perplexed 'ornithophilologists' considerably, and Professor Newton says that he has not been able to trace the latter further back than to Linnæus's 10th edition (*cf.* Coues's second Check-list, p. 64, where he enlarges upon the subject). The word *Quiscula* is, however, to be found as early as the middle of the 16th century, for Gesner gives among the names of the Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) "*Qualea & Quiscula Recentioribus*," and Pater Rzaczynski in his 'Historia Naturalis curiosa Regni Poloniæ,' etc. (1721, p. 376), names it "*Coturnix seu Quiscula, Quisquilla*." The word is probably an onomatopoeiticon, and the different names Quail, Quatla, Quaglia, Caille, Cuaderviz, Quackel have perhaps a kindred origin. I also find quoted as late Latin "*quaquila, quaquila, qualia and qualea*," while '*calha*' and '*quisquilla*' are given as Portugese vernaculars of the Quail; and Ph. Stadius Müller (S. N., II, 1773, p. 196) says: "Der Linnæische Name *Quiscula* Könnte eine Wachtel bedeuten." The Mexican origin, as suggested by some (*cf.* Auk, 1884, p. 57), seems not probable in view of the above.*

Auk, 2, Jan., 1885. p. 43-44.

* Both combined in the terms *Quiscalus quiscula* (Lin.), *Quiscalus quiscula aglaeus* (Baird), and *Quiscalus quiscula ceneus* (Ridgw.) for the Purple Grackles (Ridgw., Nomencl., Nos. 278, 278 a, and 278 b).

* It should also be mentioned that *Quiscalus* is used in botany, for which reason Swainson substituted *Scaphidurus*.

1062. *The Common Crow Blackbird—Purple Grackle. Quiscalus purpureus* (Bartr.). By B. Harry Warren, M.D. *Ibid.*, 1883 (1884), pp. 214-217.—On its habits and food. *Rep. Pennsylvania Bd. of Agriculture.*

Warren, B. Harry. (1) Diurnal Rapacious Birds, with special reference to Chester County, Pa. (Rep. Penn. Board Agric. 1884, pp. 96-112.) (2) The Common Crow Blackbird—Purple Grackle (*Quiscalus purpureus*). (*Ibid.*, pp. 216, 217.)

Warren, B. H. (1) Diurnal Rapacious Birds. (Agric. of Penn., 1883 (1884), pp. 96-112.) (2) The Common Crow Blackbird—Purple Grackle. (*Ibid.*, pp. 214-217.) (3) Blackbirds' Food. (*Ibid.*, 1885 (1886), pp. 157-159.) (4) Birds' Food. (*Ibid.*, pp. 150-156.)

The Oologist. 1571. *A Popular Nest*. By C. A. Babcock. *Ibid.*, pp. 21-22. same nest used successively by a Grackle, a Heron and a Dove.

790. *Does the Crow Blackbird eat Crayfish?* By Clarence M. Weed. *Ibid.*, p. 832.—Part of a crayfish was found in the stomach of a young Crow Blackbird. (See on this subject, *antea*, Nos. 478 and 480.)

Amer. Naturalist, XVIII

526. *Crow Blackbird*. By Everett Smith. *Ibid.*, p. 207.—The Boat-tailed Grackle not yet taken in Canada. (See *antea*, No. 524.) On page 208 W. E. Saunders and W. W. Dunlop, under the same caption, write to the same effect. *Can. Sport. & Naturalist*

480. *Does the Crow Blackbird Eat Crayfish?* By Charles Aldrich. *Ibid.*, XVI. pp. 57, 58.—The question answered affirmatively. (See above, No. 478.) *Amer. Naturalist*,

478. *Does the Crow Blackbird eat Crayfish?* By F. E. L. Beal. *Ibid.*, XV, pp. 904, 905.—Found to have swallowed "gastroliths, or stomach stones of the crayfish," hence the question. *Amer. Naturalist*,

1116. *Purple Grackle Near Philadelphia*. By Ellwood C. Erdis. *Ibid.*, Oct. 8, p. 205. *For. & Stream*, XXV

J. S. O. Vol. V 406. *Purple Grackle (Quiscalus Purpureus)*. Editorial. *Ibid.*, p. 144. *J. S. O. Vol. VII*

1060. *Blackbirds' Food. Facts from the Diary of a Field-Working Naturalist, Showing the Piscivorous Habit of two Species of the Genus Quiscalus.* By B. H. Warren, M.D., Ornithologist of the Board [of Agriculture]. *Ibid.*, Rep. for 1885 (1886), pp. 157-159.—Statistics of examinations of stomachs of numerous specimens of *Quiscalus purpureus* and *Q. major*. *Rep. Pennsylvania Bd. of Agriculture.*

aeneus

Luscalus quiscula aeneus.

1889

April 5² - 25¹ - 26¹⁰ - 30² 1889. 23⁶ 1890. 5³ - 9³ - 11³ - 13⁵ - 16⁸ - 17¹⁰ - 18¹⁰ - 19⁶ - 24²⁰ - 27²⁵ 1891.
 May 5¹ - 9¹⁰ - 10⁷ - 11¹⁰ - 14⁵ - 16⁴ - 23¹ - 25¹ - 29¹⁰ - 31¹⁰ 1889. 2⁶ - 13⁵ - 13¹⁰ - 17⁶ - 18⁸ - 22¹⁰ - 23¹⁰ - 24⁸ - 26¹ - 28⁴ - 30⁶ 1890.
 June 1² - 2⁶ - 4¹⁰ - 5¹⁰ - 7¹⁵ - 12²⁰ - 20⁸ - 21⁶ 1889. 5⁵ - 6⁶ - 7⁸ - 8⁶ - 15² - 16⁴ - 18⁴ - 19² - 21¹⁰ - 24¹⁰ - 25²⁰ - 26²⁰ 1890.
 July 7⁸ - 19² - 25²⁵ - 30²⁰ 1889. 9² - 5¹⁰ - 13⁴ - 28¹⁵ - 26³⁰ 1890.
 Aug 8¹ - 11¹⁰ - 11¹⁰ - 12⁵ - 16²⁵ - 28¹ - 29¹ 1889. 3¹ - 12¹ - 14² - 17¹⁰ - 29¹⁵ 1890.
 Sept. 2¹ - 3¹ - 6¹⁰⁰ - 17³ 1890.
 October 25⁷ Concord. 1892.
 Nov. 12¹⁵ Framingham 1890. 8¹ Concord 1891.
 March 15¹⁵ - 22¹⁵ - 24⁷ - 27¹² - 28¹⁰ 1891. 4 (a.s. Gilman) 1894. 18¹⁰ 1901. 3¹⁰ 1902. 7¹ 1903.

Dec. 3¹ - 14¹ Concord 1891.
 Feb. 2¹ (Woburn) - 28¹ (Woburn) 1890.
 April 2²⁵ - 5² Concord 1892.

May 2¹⁵ - 4⁸ - 8³ - 9¹³ - 12¹⁰ - 13⁶ - 15⁸ - 20¹ - 21² - 24¹ - 31²⁰ 1891.
 3²⁰ North Andover - 22¹³ - 29¹⁰ - 30² - 31¹ Concord 1892.

June 28²⁵ 1890. 1⁴⁰ - 2²⁰ - 3²⁰ 1891.
 " 12² - 13⁶ - 15⁵ - 16⁶ - 18¹⁰ - 19⁶ - 20¹⁵ - 21¹⁰ - 22⁶ Concord 1892.

July 4¹ - 31¹⁵ Concord 1892.

Quiscalus aeneus

1893

March [Portland Conn] 13¹ (appeared today) (J. W. Sage) C. (Fagerwall's Xc.) C. (Smith's pinus) 14² (Smith's pinus) 22² (Faxon) - 22² (Smith's pinus) -
 April 7¹ (27c) (Buttricks) 11¹ (50) (Opp. Ball's Hill) 19³ 22² (North B.) 23¹ Davis H. 29¹ (48c) (Judge Harris) Concord.
 May 8³ 24¹ (6?) 25¹ 26³ 27³ (Humboldt?) 28³ 29² 30² Concord
 June 27¹ (Anson R.)
 July 6² 7² 12² 12² 14⁵ 15³ 18² 22³ 28¹⁰ Egg Rock 31³ Concord.
 August 1² Concord.

December

Weston 5² (21) (J. W. Denton) Just across line beyond Riverside

1894.

March

April

May

June

July

August

25² 26³ 27²
 Cd. Cg. Cg. Cd. Barry-neck Cg. Concord
 1¹ 8² 10² 14² 18³⁰ 22² 26² (Meadows) 28² (Hudson)
 Cd. 7 (near meadows)
 C. (Smith's pinus) C. for Coolidge E. Watertown
 4² 11³ (stubble) 18² (stubble).
 Cg. (ons) 7¹ 11¹ 23²

1895.

March

April

May

June

July

August

Wind Rock M. 24¹ Cg. 26¹
 C. C. Cd. Cd. Cg. Cd.
 1¹ 2¹ 4¹ 5² 13³ 15²
 Cd. Haverhill Cd. Pine Cd. C. Chap. R. Barnstable
 2 about 6 (16) med. 12¹ 13¹ 17⁷⁵ (sides) 19¹ (empty nest) 19¹ (empty nest)
 Cg. C. Smith's Pine G. G.
 10¹ 11¹ 15¹ 27¹ (empty nest) 29¹
 Cg. (ons) Cg. Cg.
 21¹ 23² 24²

Nov.

Concord 20' Great Meadows. Solitary bird, flying.

Q. aeneus

Luscolus g. aeneus

March

C. (Smith's Hill) Cg. 9^d 10^d 13^d 14^d 16^d 17^d 18^d 20^d 22^d 23, 24, 25, 26^d 27^d 28^d 27^d 30^d 1896
 Concord
 C. (Smith's Hill) Cg. 10^d 11^d 12^d 16^d 20^d 29^d 30^d 1897
 Concord
 C. (Smith's Hill) Cg. 11^d 15^d 21^d 27^d 28^d 1899

April

6^d 7^d 8^d 9^d 14^d 18^d 24^d 26^d 27^d 28^d Concord '96 1896
 Concord
 4^d 12^d 17^d 19^d 1897
 Concord
 17^d 23^d 27^d 1898
 Concord
 2^d 4^d 14^d 1899

May

1^d 10^d 1896
 8^d 1897
 W. Bedford Ball's Hill 5^d 7^d 12^d 18^d 19^d 24^d 30^d Concord 1898
 6^d 11^d 15^d 17^d 19^d 20^d 21^d 22^d 23^d 24^d 26^d 27^d Concord 1899

June

19^d 1896
 22^d 1897
 18^d 19^d 1898
 19^d 1899

July

August

17^d 18^d 19^d 20^d 26^d 30^d 31^d 1897
 18^d 1898
 9^d 1899

September

October

24^d 1896
 8^d 1897
 11^d 1898
 31^d 1899

November

8^d 1897
 7^d 1898
 12^d 1899

The Garden, Cambridge, Mass.

Zuiscalus quiscula aeneus

G. = R. A. Gilbert.

- 1900 March 24' April 2' 4² 6' 10² 11² 12' 13² 13² 21' 23² 25' 28' 30' May 4² 5² 6² 7² 8² 9² 10² 11² 12² 16² 18' 23²
 " 24² 27² 29² June 6² 12² 19' 29² July 1² Aug. 14² 24² Sept. 3² 6² Oct. 8'
- 1901 March 22² 30² 31² April 4² 7² 9² 10² 17' 20² 29² May 1² 8² 11² 16² 23²
June 15² 18² 24² 25² 26² 27² 28² 29² July 2² 10' August 2' 7' 9' 10' 17' 22'
 23' 31' September 2' 3² 5' 6' 7² 8² 9² 10² 11' 12² 13² 14² 15² 16² 17² 18² 19² 20² 21² 24² 25² 26² 27² 30²
- 1902 March 13² 18² 27² 29' April 3² 4² 7² 12² 14² 15² 16² 17² 18² 19² 21² 22² 23² 24² 25² 26² 28² 29² 30²
May 1² 2² 3² 5² 6² 7² 12' 13' 14² 15² 16² 17² 24' June 5, 18, 19² 20² 21² 23² 24² 27² 28² 30²
July 1² 2² 3² 5² 7² 11' 15² 16² 19² August 1² 6² 8² 11² 12² 15² 30² 15² 16² flying W.
September 13²
- 1903 March 12² 16² 17² 19² 20² 23² 24² 25² 26² 27² 30² 31² April 1² 2² 3² 6²
 (April) 7² 8² 10² 13² 29² May 1² 2² July 3² 8² 11² 13² 15² 16² 17² 22² 24² 28² 31²
September 4² 7² 11² 12² November 6² seen! (C.W.D.)
- 1904 March 20² 21² 22² 24² 25² 26² 28² 29² 30² 31² April 1² 4² 5² 6² 7² 8² 9² 11² 12² 15²
 (April) 13² 14² 15² 16² 18² 19² 20² 21² 22² 23² 25² 26² 27² 28² May 4² June 11²
 (June) 13² 14² 15² 16² 17² 18² 20² 21² 22² 23² 24² 25² 27² 28² 29² 30²
July 1² 2² 5² 12² 22² 25² 27² 28² August 2² 10² 18² 22² 26² 30²
September 5² 10² 26²
- 1905 March 18² 19² 20² 22² 23² 24² 25² 26² 27² 28² 29² 31²
April 1² 3² 4² 5² 6² 7² 8² 10² 11² 12² 14² 15² 17² 20² 21² 22² 24²
 () 25² 26² 27² 28² 29² May 1² 2² 3² 4² 5² 6² 8² 9² 10² 11² 16² 17² 18² 20²
 (May) 22² 23² 24² 25² 29² 31² June 1² 2² 24²
July 17² 20² 26² August 7² 17² 18² 24²
September 10²
- 6 March 7² 12² 15² 19² 20² 21² 22² 24² 26²
 () 27² 28² 29² 30² 31² April 2² 3² 4² 5² 6² 7² 8² 9² 10² 12² 13²
 (April) 14² 16² 17² 18² 19² 20² 21² 23² 24² 25² 26² 27² 28² 30² May 1² 2² 3²
 (May) 4² 5² 6² 7² 8² 9² 10² 11² 12² 15² 16² 17² 18² 19² 21² 22² 23² 24² 25² 26²
June 1-13 July 5² 7² 9² 10² 11² 12² 13² 16² 20² 23² 26²
August 13² 14² 15² 20² 22² 23² 25² 29² 30²

Z. aeneus

Quiscalus d.aeneus.

Concord, Mass.

1878. In the afternoon took a paddle up the Assabet. Saw two

Oct. 14. Quiscalus purpureus.

Quiscalus cinereus

1889

April 26

About a dozen in the Fresh Pond marshes north of the Maple Swamp where I do not remember to have seen any before except in autumn. They were in pairs alighting in the tops of isolated trees and flying down to feed on the open meadows. A dense tangle of button bushes, young maples and alders with a few old maples rising high above the thickets, the whole place swampy and intersected with numerous ditches filled with water, seemed to form their rendezvous for they were continually flying to and from it. I penetrated it with some difficulty - for it was not only very dense but also filled with thorny wild roses - and found several Grackles feeding on the ground along the edges of the ditches and pools. They behaved very like Rusty Grackles dodging on ahead from cover to cover uttering now and then a low chuck as if to lead me on. When hard pressed they would fly up into the tall trees above. I cannot understand what attracted them to this place unless they intend breeding there but whatever the attraction it was obviously strong for they kept coming back after I had fired several shots at them.

In the
Maple Swamp.

Feeding in
dense thickets
like Rusties

* On May 3rd about sunset I saw
four or six fly over Lincoln's nursery
and pitch down into the Norton pines.
Probably a few will breed there after all.

These Grackles seem to have nearly deserted the neighborhood of our place in Cambridge. I have seen only three or four, all flying over, during the past month. They have also apparently left the Norton place*, probably owing to the extensive building going on there this spring.

Desertion
of the Norton
Hubbard
breeding places

None have nested in the Hubbard place, to my knowledge, for two years past. They deserted this latter when Mr. Hubbard built the Dana house and we cut down the wignons opposite on the Choate place. It seems probable that the birds seen in the Swamp to-day may have come originally from one or the other of these colonies.

Quiscalus cinereus

1889 Mass.

May 10 Cambridge. - The Grackles were again in the Maple Swamp this morning. I saw at least seven on the edge of a dense swampy thicket near where I observed them on April 26. I looked carefully for nests but found none. Do they visit this swamp for mud to line their nests? They were comparatively tame this morning allowing me to get within 30 yds. In the Maple Swamp.

" 16 Several about Heron Pool in the Maple Swamp. A small colony also in the pines behind Mr. Smith's on ~~Fayerweather St.~~ Nesting on an old rookery of theirs. Several of the ♀♀ were talking in Fayerweather St. mud to line their nests.

" 29 Watertown. - A small colony behind Mr. John Coolidge's house in the old pitch pine grove, the ♀♀ carrying in food to their young. They must breed irregularly for Mr. Bolles tells me that a pair has just finished a nest on his place on Garden St. (Cambridge) Nesting places feeding young in nest.

June 4 Cambridge. - Two young following the mother, flying over my garden chattering cha, cha-cha. Young on wing

" 12 " The Grackles are breeding in the Fresh Pond Swamps. At least several pairs in the flooded maple woods about Fresh Pond followed me about this morning with very sign of anxiety. I did not look for their nests. I see them in this Swamp daily and also in the Maple Swamp. Breeding in Fresh P. Swamps.

1890

May 17 For the past month I have seen about four pairs in the Maple Swamp and Nest 2 eggs twice as many at Fresh Pond. To-day in the former place I found a nest in alder 4 ft. with 2 eggs. It was in a thicket of flooded alders ^{on the water side of Heron Pool} (water 2 to 4 ft. deep) and was built in the fork of a leaning alder about 4 ft. above the water. There were several other pairs of birds flying anxiously about overhead & doubtless other nests but the footing was treacherous & the alders mixed freely with wild rose bushes. above water.

Lanius aeneus

1890 Mass.

- May 22 Cambridge - The Grackles nesting in Port Pond Swamp attack, Attacking Crows
in masse, every Crow that approaches this place following
him closely and diving down on him from above in precisely
the manner of the Kingbird. Let these same Grackles give
way at once and fly in apparent terror when attacked, as
they often are, by Robins, Jays and other small birds. Their
courage or the lack of it seems to depend on conscience; when
their own eggs are threatened they are brave enough, when they
have been robbing the nests of other birds, retreat cowardly.
- Aug. 17 Falmouth - About 200 going to roost at evening in a white cedar Roost
swamp. They arrived a little before sunset in a single flock
and first alighted on a huge hay-rick just outside the swamp
covering it from top to bottom with an unbroken black pall.
Through the glass I could see that they were busily pulling
out the grass stalks probably to get at the seeds. They clung
to the sides of the stack in a variety of positions, some
sideways, some head downward, and as a rule did not move
about much, each bird keeping the place it had chosen for
several minutes. They at length flew to the swamp, not all
together, but in small detachments, each following another
closely. Before finally settling for the night which they
did in the thickest, tallest cedars, intermingled with the Robins,
the flock rose several times and circled over the swamp
or sailed from one end to the other as if to make
sure that it contained no lurking enemies. There was
some calling among them but no singing and on the
whole wonderfully little noise considering the large
number of birds. I stayed by them until it was too
dark to see distinctly. Many Grackles were coming to
this swamp on the evening of July 5 but at that time
they arrived singly & in small family parties

Quiscalus cinereus

1890 Mass

Sept. 6 Cambridge. Nearly every day for the past week I have Eating ripe seen Grackles in a Gravenstein apple tree in my garden. apples on
This morning there was a large flock, probably 100 or the tree more, and my curiosity was aroused to discover what mischief they were at. By the aid of a glass I soon found out; they were pecking holes in the ripe apples and eating the flesh. At first I suspected that they were after the seeds but after watching them awhile and afterwards examining the apples I became satisfied that this was not so. for I actually saw them tear out and swallow pieces of the flesh and none of the holes which they had made extended in to the seeds, although some of them were nearly an inch in depth. It would be more correct to call them grooves—or better still trenches—than holes for they were all long and narrow, not wider in fact than the birds' bills.

While at work the Grackle stood on a twig just over the apple and bending down inserted its bill rather slowly and gently, with a thrusting rather than a pecking motion, into the pulp, from which it extracted piece after piece with grave precision raising its bill high during the act of swallowing. The top of the apple next or very near the stem was invariably the part attacked. Although at one time nearly every apple on the tree had its attendant bird only one apple was dislodged & sent to the ground. The fear of such a catastrophe doubtless accounts for the slow, careful way in which the birds worked.

Luscalus aeneus

1890 Mass.

Sept 11 Cambridge. A number of the apples on which the Grackles have been at work were blown down to-day by a high wind. Many of them had broad deep holes eaten in the sides and one or two had nearly the whole of one side pecked away. The birds were probably just beginning their attacks when I made the first note on this subject. I have not seen the large flock since but from one to five or six have been engaged in the apple trees daily. One of our Cambridge Police officers tells me that these Grackles are also doing much damage to pears in the city gardens. Eating
apples

Eating
pears?

Nov. 12 Framingham. "A flock of about 15 Browned Grackles came here on the 12th Nov. I obtained one [which was] equal to the finest in breeding plumage" (C. Browne letter Nov. 14, 1890) Late stage
in autumn

1891.

March 15 Belmont. - About 15 mixed with some 30 Red-wings and an equal number of Cow-birds the combined flock feeding on a stubble on the sunny side of oak woods.

Apr. 18 Cambridge. - Fully 50 with half as many Red-wings & a few Rusties circling over the tangled, briary swamp just south of the Maple Swamp a little after sunset this evening apparently preparing to roost there. I have not seen anything like as many together before this season. I suspect that these birds have only just arrived from the South (the weather has been very warm the past two days). Large flock

May 15 Saw four or five males go to roost this evening in cut tail flays near Point Pond in company with about 100 Red-wings and a dozen or more Cow-birds (See notes under Agelaius) The females are probably breeding in the flooded maples hard by. Roosting
in reeds in
May!

Massachusetts,

Quiscalus g. aeneus.

1892.

June 15 Concord. Bronzed Grackles have also become constant visitors to this part of the river much to the wrath & dismay of the Red-wings whose eggs & young doubtless form one of the chief attractions to the Grackles.

June 21. Bronzed Grackles have been very numerous along the river for a week or more. At first I saw only old birds but latterly there have been many young also. Yesterday I started fifteen or twenty in one place among button bushes. They spread dismay among the Robins & Red-wings.

July 9. There are no Grackles along the river today and I have seen none there for nearly two weeks. Probably they left when the supply of birds eggs gave out.

Quiscalus g. aeneus. (No. 1.)

Cambridge, Mass.
March 22-1893

The Browned Grackles were in the pines about Mr. Smith's house where they have bred for so many years. Faxon saw two birds there on the 14th and thinks that they always arrive at this colony earlier than elsewhere ^{in or near} ~~about~~ Cambridge. This morning there were fifty a dozen birds, nearly half of them females. They were very noisy and much at home flitting about among the pines and making a variety of sounds which I noted as follows: oo-l-e or oo-l-ee (the song?) of the ♂; cae (the call of both sexes); and a scolding cha-cha or krur.

Browned
Grackles

Notes

Six birds feeding in a field under an apple tree were throwing the sudden apple leaves that lay on the ground in every direction picking them in their bills by the edges and dangling them about.

The ones I like as cards are seized, often bending them four or five feet. The leaves flew at times in a cloud as if some one were sweeping them rapidly with a broom.

Concord, Mass.
April, 7. 1896.

A large flock of Browned Grackles visited the farm early in the forenoon coming and going several times and descending to the corn stubble to feed as they used to do, years ago, in one place in Cambridge. At first there were sixteen birds in the flock but afterwards the number increased to twenty-seven which probably represents the total colony that bred in the pines on the near place long season.

Browned
Grackles

Concord, Mass.
April, 11. 1896.

As I was rounding the E. end of Bodd's Hill on my way back I saw a perfect cloud of Blackbirds circling over a field on the Bedford shore. They alighted on some apple trees and then flew down to the ground where they found a conspicuous black patch on the pale brown grass.

Immense
flock of
Browned
Grackles

Quiscalus g. aeneus. (No. 2.)

Every minute or so they would rise, wheel about & settle again. I peered sufficiently near to make out through my glass that they were all Brown Grackles. A rough count showed that there were over 150 birds in the flock which is by far the largest that I have seen there many years.

As I never see Brown Grackles in this locality in summer and as the Concord colony is nothing like so large I do not doubt that these birds were migrants.

Concord, Mass.
April, 22, 1892.

At 10 o'clock I walked on a slope of the hill from all the way up to the top where a house or barn is located in the whole line along the avenue to the top where they flitted to & fro uttering their creaking noise & uttering notes incessantly and acting as if they were at a meeting, but a thing that they have never been known to do before.

Brown
Grackles

Concord, Mass.
April, 29, 1892.

There is a very large colony of Brown Grackles on Judge Hoar's place this year. I counted 48 as they flew from an apple tree into the cluster of pines where they breed. At evening they were roosting about on the lawn feeding.

Brown
Grackles

Bird Roost at "Blackbird Swamp".

Falmouth, Mass.

1895. The "Blackbird Swamp", when I first reached it about an hour before sunset, was literally swarming with Robins, Grackles and Red-wings and several Yellow Warblers were singing there. Both Robins and Red-wings were singing loudly in great numbers, perched on the top of the white cedars and the flash and flicker of wings was incessant as the birds flew from branch to branch or pitched down from the air above. I returned to the place later in the evening ----- and found the Blackbirds going to roost among the cedars and the flight of roosting Robins waning as the last birds shot in low down across the bushy pasture. A Barn Swallow came me within a few yards and I am positive that he alighted among the cedars as I should have seen him against the sky had he passed over them. A Green Heron also came in and alighted. Thus at least five species came to this place expressly to roost besides the Yellow Warblers, Song Sparrows and Maryland Yellow-throats which live there.

Quiscalus q. aeneus.

Concord, Mass.

1897. As William Brewster and I were rowing on Concord River
June 22. to-day we saw the Red-winged Blackbirds attacking and driving
the Bronzed Grackles which were in very large numbers along
our course. They may have been hunting for Red-wings eggs,
but what we specially noted was that they were engaged in pick-
ing worms from the leaves of the trees that lined the banks.
They were either eating them or flying away with the grubs in
their bills. We saw several young birds with the old ones.

Walter Deane.

Quiscalus g.aeneus.

Concord, Mass.

Evening Flight.

1898. On reaching the river at Davis's Hill I launched the ca-
Oct.18. noe and had just taken up the paddle when I heard a rushing
 sound as loud as that of a gale of wind blowing through a
 pine grove. The next instant an enormous flock of Bronzed
 Grackles passed nearly over me flying directly down river and
 keeping on out of sight in the direction of Carlisle bridge.
 Although moving in compact order the flock covered a space of
 nearly a quarter of an acre, and I estimated the number of
 birds at over four hundred. There was not the slightest doubt
 as to their being Bronzed Grackles and not either Rusty Black-
 birds or Cowbirds. It was past sunset at the time and they
 were probably on their way to their roost. I have never seen
 such a flock here in autumn before.

Oct.19. As I was standing at the west end of Holden's Hill an im-
 mense flock of Bronzed Grackles came from up river and pass-
 ing directly over the Rusty Blackbird roost at Beaver Dam
 Lagoon kept on eastward. Ten minutes later I found them in
 the oaks and chestnuts on the Blackmore ridge. They appeared
 to be looking for acorns and chestnuts for they flew from tree
 to tree clustering all over the ends of the upper branches.
 As far as I could see they were unsuccessful in their search
 (both acorns and chestnuts are scarce this autumn). Finally
 they all took wing at once and crossing the Barrett meadow

Quiscalus q.aeneus.

Concord, Mass.

1898. swept over the woods beyond in the direction of Beaver Dam
Oct.19. Lagoon. As it was nearly dark at the time I am inclined to
(No.2). suspect that they roosted at the lagoon with the Rusties to-
night. They were probably the same birds that I saw at Dav-
iss Hill last evening for the flock was of exactly the same
size apparently.
- Oct.26. The recent heavy rains have carried the water nearly to
spring pitch and the Great Meadow is now completely submerged.
This fact is doubtless the cause of the breaking up of the
great Blackbird roost. I have ^{neither} seen nor heard any birds fly-
ing that way of late.
- Nov.9. Late in the afternoon a flock of about 100 Bronzed Grack-
les followed a minute or two later by a second flock of fully
300 passed over the Barrett House flying S.W. The first
flock was at an elevation of about 300 ft., the second at an
immense height, fully 1/2 mile I thought.
- Nov.12. About the Barrett house I saw, late in the afternoon,
two flocks of Bronzed Grackles flying S.W. Without doubt they
were a part of the flight that I witnessed at the same place
at the same hour on the 9th but on the present occasion they
were moving at a moderate height - certainly not over 300 ft.
above the ground. I am now convinced that there must be a
roost not far off to which they go every evening. The course

Quiscalus q.aeneus.

Concord, Mass.

1898. which they take is almost exactly in the direction of Punka-

Nov.12. tassik Hill.
(No.2).

Quiscalus g. aeneus

- 1896 Mass.
June 19 Cambridge, Mrs. Bennett who keeps a tub filled with fresh water on the lawn under her windows for the comfort of the birds at Glenwood tells me that although a number of Grackles are breeding in the pines near the house she has never seen one of them bathe and only once or twice has she seen them drink. They are almost the only birds in the neighborhood which do not visit the tub frequently in warm weather. Does not bathe?
1897.
Oct. 24 Cambridge, Walter Deane saw a large flock of Grackles going to roost late this afternoon in an isolated cluster of trees in the open marsh on the west side of Glacialis Pond. He estimated the total number of birds at about 300. He did not visit the place afterwards. Both autumn roost in Fresh Pond Swamp.
- 1898
Mar. 12 Cambridge, Spelman saw two Grackles in Cambridge on the 1st and one appeared in our garden on the 9th and has been seen there every day since, but the first flock was reported by W. Deane this morning - five or six birds in the pines on the Chauncy Smith place. [Journ].
- Mar. 26 Cambridge, Michael told me that Grackles have been very numerous during the past week. On one occasion he counted 30 feeding on the ground in our garden. [Journ].
- July 2-4 Glendale (in or near), Berkshire Co. Two or three. [Journ].
- 1901
May 6 Boston. - Dr. Manning K. Rand (my dentist) tells me that a pair of Crow Blackbirds breed in the Public Garden this season. The birds this nest in a thorn tree on the west side of the pond & he thinks reared their young safely. Nesting in Boston

Quiscalus g. aeneus.

1906. Mass.

April 4

Cambridge. - A Brown Grackle when rambling about on the ground walks with a brisk yet deliberate and decidedly waddling gait. Whether it be on the ground or in a tree its tail, like that of most long-tailed birds, is used freely as an organ for gesturing. It is flipped upwards or twitched sideways every few seconds.

thoracic
movements

New Hampshire.

Sept. 27

Wolfboro. - Every day since the 23rd I have either seen or heard Brown Grackles in this village. On the 25th and again on the 26th I saw a flock of twenty-four or thirty birds flying past the house when I was staying (Mr. Board's). They moved in a compact body like Cow-birds and very swiftly, their wings making a loud whirring sound. I noticed especially that their flight was not accompanied by the usual undulations but was almost or quite level. Most of them were without tails and otherwise in ragged, imperfect plumage. This morning the flock spent twenty minutes or more in a Baldwin apple tree just behind the house. I watched them closely for sometime and saw them peck large holes in the ripen apples from which they extracted large pieces of the pulp. These they seemed to be eating although I could not make sure of the fact. It is possible they were after the seeds but I do not believe it. They were very tame.

Flight

Eating the
pulp (?)
of apples.

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

54. *Quiscalus purpureus æneus* Ridgw. CROW BLACKBIRD.—Common at Fort Fairfield, in the town, along the river, and about a small pond back in the woods. At Grand Falls it was not uncommon about the town. "Very common" at Houlton.

Bull. N. O. C, 7, July, 1882, p.149

Dwight. Summer Birds of
Prince Edward Island.

Quiscalus quiscula æneus. BRONZED GRACKLE.—A pair of these birds in Prof. Earle's possession were the only ones he had ever seen, very likely stragglers from the mainland.

Auk X, Jan, 1893, p.10

Some Winter Birds of Nova Scotia, By C. H. Morrell.
16. *Quiscalus quiscula æneus*. BRONZED GRACKLE.—Migrants arrived at Shulee, March 22. Auk, XVI, July, 1899, p. 252.

37.
Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region,
Nipissing District, Ontario.

by Frederick C. Hubel. Auk, XXIV, Jan, 1907, p. 57.
37. *Quiscalus quiscula æneus*. BRONZED GRACKLE.—Fairly abundant.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming.
Part II, Land Birds.
Auk, XXIV, Jan, 1907, p. 78.

187. *Quiscalus quiscula æneus*. BRONZED GRACKLE.—Abundant summer resident, March 20 to November 3; earliest record February 26, 1906; a common breeder; said to be a rare winter resident (January, 1906).

Maine (near Bangor)

Quiscalus p. aeneus

1885

Oct. "Purple Grackles [doubtless aeneus however] came in October in large flocks. I counted 68 in one. I shot a specimen Nov. 5th, its colors the most brilliant I have ever seen." (Manly Hardy in letter of Nov. 11th)

"The Purple Grackles were certainly here as late as Nov. 12th and I think are here now."

(Manly Hardy in letter of Nov. 19. 1885)

Quiscalus p. aeneus

Wintering in Me.

Bangor, Maine

January - 1884

"Bowler [E.S.] had a Purple Grackle brought in last week in the flesh. He said it seemed as if starved to death." (Letter from Manly Hardy Jan'y 15, 1884)

Rye Beach, N. H. July 23-24 1885

125. *Lonicera pur. alens.* - *Serrat.*

Luscalus aeneus

Cambridge, Mass
May 1883

I have noticed repeatedly this Spring that when Crow Blackbirds are flying in pairs the ♀ always leads. I have observed this in dozens of recent cases and to far have seen no exceptions

E. Mass. 1885. 1 M. ^{Water} ^{Program} 2 ♀ ^{at} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{place} ^{of} ^{the} ^{nest}
26. *Luscalus l. aeneus*. - March 28, April 5, 6 - June - July, July 16

Luscalus pur. aeneus. Mass. - near Cambridge.

1886 March 9²⁰ - 11² - 15²⁰ - 25²⁰ - 27²⁰ - 29²⁰
April 1 18²⁰ 19²⁰ - 23²⁰

"Twice have the crow-blackbirds attempted a settlement in my pines, and twice have the robins, who claim a right of pre-emption, so successfully played the part of border ruffians as to drive them away!" * * *

Lovell: Atlantic almanac for 1877 p. 36.

"The crow-blackbirds, after prospecting two years, have settled in the pines and make the view from the veranda all the livelier."

Lovell: Letters. June 5, 1877 vol 2, p. 195.

Mass. (Concord)

Luscalus aeneus ✓

1886

June 20 Five or six broods, with their parents, coming in to the pines on Egg Rock to roost at sunset, the young chattering incessantly as they flew.

Mass. (near Cambridge)

Luscalus p. aeneus

1887

March 21 Eight, just before sunset, sitting in a close bunch in the tall elm on Sparks St., rather silent, evidently tired. I usually see them thus & often in this way too, on their first arrival. I am very sure they were not here yesterday.

Mass. (near Cambridge)

1887

1887 1887

March 21⁸

Luscalus purpureus. aeneus

Mass. (near Concord).

1887

May 9¹ - 10¹ - 13⁴ - 17³ - 23³ - 26³

June 2² - 4² - 6⁴ - 7⁴ - 12⁴ - 16¹⁰ - 17¹⁰

July 7¹⁰ - 10² - 23²⁰

First young on wing.

Luscalus aeneus

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1887

Oct. 7¹⁰⁰ - 9²⁰⁰

1888

March 22^(Hk. Camb. Norton's) - April 18¹⁰

Luscalus p. aeneus

Mass (Wellesley)

Quiscalus p. æneus

1887

In December & February.

Dec.

Mr. Denton tells me that three Grackles have been repeatedly seen in the neighborhood of a grain stubble in Wellesley during the first half of December.

~~1888~~

A fine ♂ was shot Feb. 6, 1888 at Wellesley and brought to Mr. Denton. Its stomach was filled with corn.

Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.

Quiscalus æ. June 18² (near of Winchendon)

24 *Quiscalus p. æneus* July 4² - 14³
Falmouth, Mass. 1889.

36.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Quiscalus quiscula æneus (Ridgw.), Bronzed Grackle. Doubtless occurs as a migrant, but difficult to distinguish from the foregoing species.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 140

Winter Notes from Wellesley Mass
S. W. Denton.

All winter, Bronze Grackles (*Quiscalus p. æneus*), have been seen in Wellesley, but none were secured until Feb. 5, when a fine male was shot by Mr. Thomas Fitzgerald. Its crop was full of corn and one foot was gone, there being only a stub in its place.

O. & O. XIII, July, 1888 p. 104

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

33. *Quiscalus quiscula æneus*.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire
Co., Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Faxon

29. *Quiscalus quiscula* (æneus?). CROW BLACKBIRD.—Not uncommon
The impropriety of using a gun in the places where I saw the Crow Blackbirds prevented a positive determination of the subspecies.

Auk, VI, Jan., 1889. p. 44

Winter Birds in South-eastern Mass.
Harry G. White

4. *The Crow Blackbird.* This bird is a rare winter resident in southern Massachusetts. A probable solitary individual wintered in the game preserve on Naushon Island, and was observed by Mr. Chisholm about the barns on several occasions, notably, on January 14th and 28th, and on February 11th and 27th. During the previous winter, a Blackbird remained about Wood's Holl and was easily indentified by its peculiar flight which was not in a straight course, but diagonally to the right, from the direction in which he was heading. The Naushon bird was, however, apparently uncrippled, and was considered to have remained over from choice.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 83

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

Luscalus cinereus

Ashby--- Mr. Faxon saw twom birds June 26th on the outskirts of the village. These were the only ones which we observed during our stay in this region.

Luscalus g. cinereus
Late record, Nov. 13, 1898, E. Mass.
Ralph Hoffmann,
Belmont, Mass. Auk, XVI, April, 1899, p. 196.

Luscalus g. cinereus

1895 Falmouth, Mass.

July 12⁽⁵⁰⁾ ^{Sunset at} Blackbird Swamp. 15-2 16⁴ 17⁽¹⁰⁾ 18¹²
19⁸ 20⁽⁵⁰⁺⁾ (Blackbird Sw.) 21⁴ 25⁽⁵⁰⁺⁾ Blackbird Sw.
29⁽⁵⁰⁺⁾ (Blackbird Sw.) 31⁽⁵⁰⁺⁾ Blackbird Sw.

Luscalus g. cinereus

March 4 N.O.C. record
" 14 - October 16
Nov. 13 Belmont

Feb 27-28 - Follen St. Belmont

My first date for Grackles in 1901
was March 18th, in 1902 was March 3rd.

Yours truly
Edward Davis.

17 Francis Ave
Cambridge
Mass.

April 11
[1904]

Dear Mr Deane

On March 2, 1902
I saw a Grackle near Artificial
Pond, Cambridge. This is the
earliest date I have ever had
for them. Please excuse my
not writing sooner

[see this to ~~see~~
W.B.]

Yours sincerely
Richard S. Ernst

1898

Zenaidura macroura Belmont, Mass.

Nov. 13

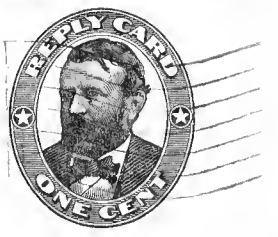
"The Zenaidura, three together, were seen on
the 13th of the same month & year [Nov. 1898]
below the Fayon Estate & I see no reason
to suppose they wintered in this latitude."

Lexington, July 19/1903,

W. Fayon, in litt.

April 1st '03

REPLY POSTAL CARD
United States of America
THIS SIDE IS FOR ADDRESS ONLY
STATION



William Brewster
145 Brattle St
Cambridge
Mass.

My first Grackles in 1901 and 1902 were seen in Norton's Woods. My first date for them this year was the seventh of March. The locality was Norton's Woods.
Edward Davis.

17 Francis Ave
Cambridge Mass.

Justin P. S.
Apr 11



CAMBRIDGE STATION

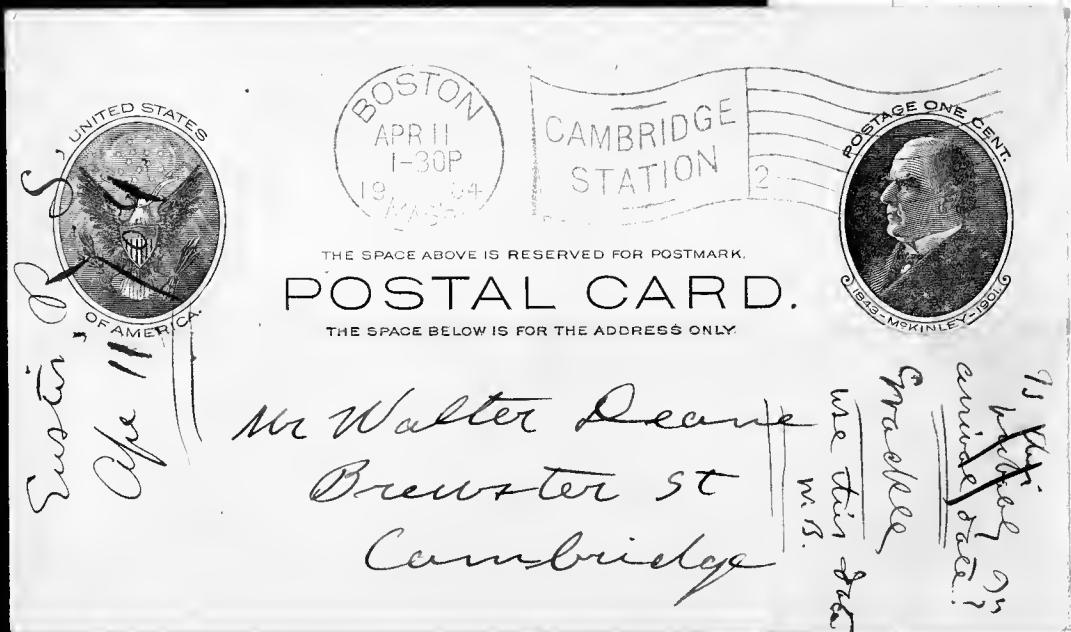
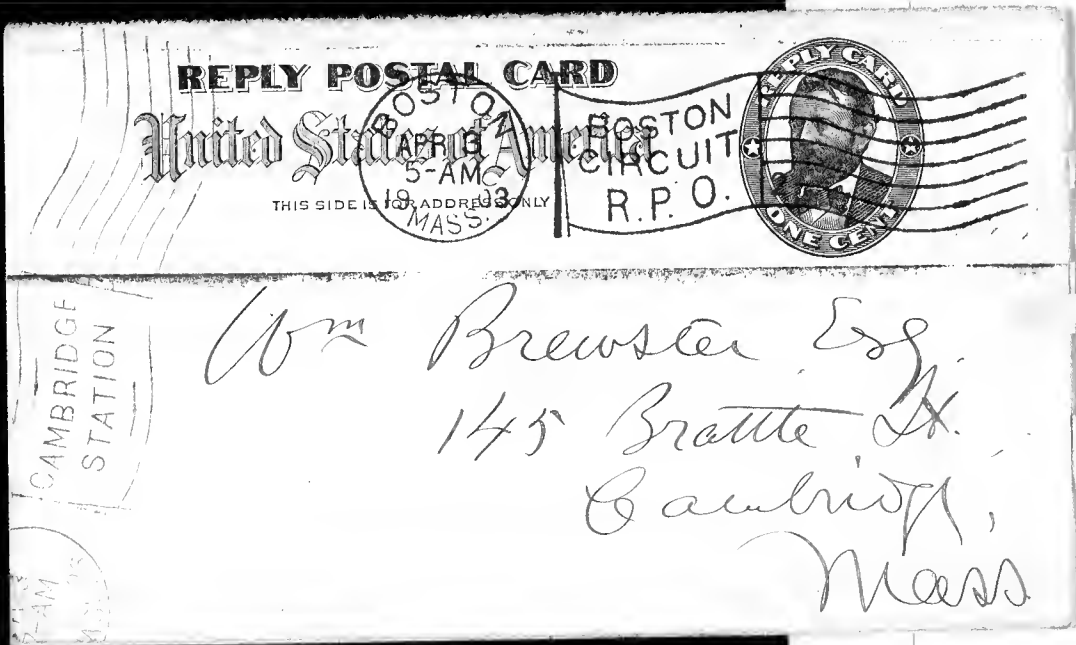


THE SPACE ABOVE IS RESERVED FOR POSTMARK.
POSTAL CARD.
THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY

Mr Walter Deane
Brewster St
Cambridge

95
Kitt
labeled in
archive folder?
Grackles
one thin spec
m.s.

1898
Nov. 13 Zenaidura macroura Belmont, Mass.
"The Zenaidura, three together, were seen on the 13th of the same month & year [Nov. 1898] below the Payson Estate & I see no reason to suppose they wintered in this latitude."
Lexington, July 18/1903,
W. Taper, in litt.



1898
Nov. 13

Zenaidura macroura Belmont, Mass.
 "The *Zenaidura*, three together, were seen on the 13th of the same month & year [Nov. 1898] below the Payson Estate & I see no reason to suppose they wintered in this latitude."
 Lexington, July 19/03,
 W. Taper, in litt.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam,

84 a. *Quiscalus purpureus æneus* Ridgway. BRONZED GRACKLE.—
This form of the species breeds here and is by all odds the commonest in
the Adirondack region.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 231

Notes concerning certain birds of Long Island
by William C. Braisted, M. D.

Quiscalus quiscula æneus. The Bronzed Grackle is rare on Long Island. Its spring and autumnal migrations are ordinarily completed without crossing the island. Extraordinary conditions, high north-westerly winds, for example, may drive it from its regular course. It is not improbable that grackles, sometimes seen here in November, are this form. On Nov. 17, 1900, a flock of six or eight grackles was seen at Jamaica South, feeding in company with many robins, in recently cultivated fields. They were shy, and but one specimen was secured. It proved to be a typical *Q. quiscula æneus*. I know of but one other specimen of this variety from Long Island. Mr. W. W. Worthington of Shelter Island killed a grackle on June 16, 1886, which was of the same variety. These birds were identified by Mr. Chapman. Almost all varieties of intermediates occur on Long Island, all the breeding birds being intermediates. See paper by Mr. Chapman entitled 'Preliminary Study of the Grackles,' Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. IV, 1892, pp. 1-20.

Auk, XIX, April., 1902, p. 147.

Mass. (Concord)

Icthyophaga cincta

Nest in hollow stub.

JUN 2 1887

A nest in the hollow end of a ~~white~~ maple on the river bank. Hole large with jagged edges entering vertically. Height about 30 ft. The ♂ came out bearing in his bill the excrement sac of one of the young which he carried about 50 yds. & dropped into the water. The ♀ entered the hole as the ♂ emerged from it. I did not examine the nest as it was a hard climb.

Mass. (Concord)

Icthyophaga cincta

1887

Feeding young.

June 12

A brood of young on wing in Mr. Hoar's pines. The parents were feeding them and I saw both ♂ & ♀ come from the marsh across the river with food. The young kept up a constant querulous cry.

Mass. (Concord)

Luscalus aeneus

Nest in hollow stub.

JUN 2 1887

A nest in the hollow end of a ~~white maple~~ maple on the river bank. Hole large with jagged edges entering vertically. Height about 30 ft. The ♂ came out bearing in his bill the excrement sac of one of the young which he carried about 50 yds. & dropped into the water. The ♀ entered the hole as the ♂ emerged from it. I did not examine the nest as it was a hard climb.

N. Truro, Mass

June 1 - 1891.

Luscalus aeneus June 1

Nest $\frac{1}{4}$ egg - G. S. M.

Nest in board open marsh among cat-tails supported among a number of upright stems precisely like a Red-wings. Its top was just 14 inches above the ground or rather shallow water. ♀ shot

Nest $\frac{2}{4}$ egg - M. B.

Build precisely like the last *Luscalus aeneus* top 14 inches above water less 1 ft. deep.

Grackles nesting all over these marshes. Also in bushy swamp near Swallow's. Their holes are high & cracked very like those of *L. guscata* about Washington. They are shot necessarily by the farmer.

wing in Mr. Hoar's feeding them & come from river with food out and quail

1893 *Zonotrichia querula*
Feb 22 } Smith's pinos, (Cambridge)
seen on a dozen in

Smith's pinos. Carson saw
two here on the 14th

Notes caa (call very distinct)
oo-l-a or oo-lo-ek = song?
krur = hold
cha-cha

Big birds feeding in field
under apple tree, picking fallen
rotten apple cores in bills
by edge of leaf and dropping
them to one side. All these
engaged at one time. Sees
through two or three feet fly
in a cloud at times.

Zonotrichia querula.

"Pinos at Shady Hill
across Blackbuck to day"
(Pinnell's Petrels vol II p 25)

*Icteriidae found nesting near
Des Moines, Iowa. James B. Green.*

Bronzed Grackle, (*Quiscalus purpureus aeneus*). This is our commonest blackbird. Arrives about the middle of March, leaves about the first of November. They breed abundantly in almost any suitable place, usually two or more pairs together. A tree covered with wild grape vines is a favorite place. In several large pine groves near the city there are large colonies. They begin building about the last of April, and full sets of eggs may be taken about the middle of May. The nest is a large and bulky structure, composed of straw, grass, stems or most any suitable material—if a straw stack happens to be near you will probably find them of straw—plastered together with mud and lined with fibres.

The usual complement of eggs is five, sometimes four or six. They vary much in color, usually a light green and from this to a brownish green, with large and irregular streaks and blotches of black and dark brown distributed over the surface, mostly at the larger end.

O. & O. XII, Jun. 1887 p. 92.

Cambridge, Mass.
June 27, 1898.

On an occasion to see an English Sparrow I shot a fine adult ♂ from my chamber window. He fell wounded to the gravelled walk way beneath and was fluttering considerably, when a ♀ Female Crow Blackbird pounced upon him from the Linden above and with a few well directed strokes of her bill upon his skull killed him. At this juncture a Robin intervened but soon retired before the Grackle menacing front. The latter now seized the Sparrow in its bill and flew off with it like

CARNIVOROUS PROPENSITIES OF THE CROW BLACKBIRD.—One sultry afternoon a few summers since I was writing at an open window when my attention was attracted—or rather distracted—by the clamor of a number of English Sparrows which were quarreling among the foliage immediately below me. Happening to want a specimen, I selected an adult male and shot it. Scarcely had it struck the ground when a Crow Blackbird (*Quiscalus purpureus aeneus*) pounced upon it from a linden above, and with a few well-directed strokes of its bill put an end to its struggles. At this juncture a Robin interfered but soon retreated before the Grackle's menacing front. The latter next seized the Sparrow in its bill and flew off with it to the lawn, a few paces distant. Here it deliberately went to work to eat its victim. Holding it between one, or sometimes both, its feet, exactly as a Hawk would do, it broke open the skull and feasted on the brains. I was near enough so see that its bill was reeking with blood. After watching it awhile I walked directly towards it when it again took up its prize and tried to carry it into the tree above, but its strength proved insufficient and it was obliged to drop it. Upon examining the Sparrow I found that its brains had been cleanly scooped out and the eyes as well as the throat devoured. Meanwhile the Grackle scolded me most emphatically for thus interfering and the moment my back was turned again descended and resumed its feast.

Many of our native birds seem to have a standing grudge against this Blackbird and rarely let pass an opportunity to pursue and harass it. It would seem that this hatred is not without just cause.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass. Bull. N.O.C. 6, July, 1881, p. 180-181.

belong to my grounds; as I do not raise cereals, and devote my land to fruit culture, I regard these birds as the most valuable of their kind to me, and never have permitted them to be shot at or disturbed on my premises. Going down to my pond, as usual, in quest of Kingfishers, I happened to take notice of a Crow Blackbird in the act of striking quickly with its bill into the water at the edge of the bank. Wondering what it found there for food, I cautiously approached, sneaking behind the shelter of an evergreen and bed of flowering shrubs. This bird had struck a small goldfish as it came up to the water's edge—struck it in the centre of its head with the sharp point of its bill. This blow only stunned the fish, but rendered it unable to dart away, although it could still squirm and wriggle; the Blackbird was earnestly trying to land its prey by repeatedly striking the fish so as to get a beak hold, which it finally did after many failures. Catching sight of me, it at once flew away, leaving the writhing and mortally wounded victim upon the earth. The mystery of that peculiar destruction of my goldfish was thus solved.

The habit of goldfish whereby they suck and bore at and into the grassy and mossy edges of a pond as they feed, renders them a comparatively shining mark for *Quiscalus*.—HENRY W. ELLIOTT, near Cleveland, Ohio.

Cambridge, Mass.
June 27, 1878.

Having occasion to use an English Sparrow I shot a fine adult ♂ from my Chamber window. He was wounded to the gravelled wire way beneath and was uttering pensive, when a ♀. Female Crow Blackbird pounced upon him from the eaves above and with a few well directed strokes of her bill upon his skull killed him. At this juncture a Robin intervened but soon retired before the Grackles menacing front. The latter soon seized the Sparrow in its beak and flew off with it to the

A PECULIAR NEST OF THE BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—When the leaves fell in the autumn of 1876, I discovered a bird's nest suspended from a slender limb of a cotton-wood that stands, with others, on the outskirts of Charles City, (Iowa). This nest immediately attracted my attention, and I made several attempts to secure it, but was unsuccessful, as it hung near the

vegetarian once in the year.—ELISHA STADE, Somerset, Mass.
I had formerly considered the *Icterus baltimorei* essentially insectivorous and frugivorous; I am now aware that some of them at least are decidedly

together, and with their young. during the summer and frequently alighted in the trees, separately, in either year, though they were in the garden more or less every day

Quiscalus quiscula æneus Killing and Catching Goldfish.—During the past summer, while noting the condition of my goldfish pond I frequently found many bodies of these fishes floating, bearing evidence of some sharp instrument having been used to effect their death: deep incisions, holes, and grooves in their heads and backs, etc. Carefully killing every Kingfisher and all the Herons, Bitterns being wholly absent, I became very much puzzled at the constant loss of life among these pretty fish of which

I have, I presume, some 3000 individuals in the pond. I first observed this evidence of destruction early in May last, and it was not until late in July that I detected the cause of it.

Large flocks of *Quiscalus q. æneus* make their home annually from early spring till late every fall, in the pine, spruce and hemlock groves which belong to my grounds; as I do not raise cereals, and devote my land to fruit culture, I regard these birds as the most valuable of their kind to me, and never have permitted them to be shot at or disturbed on my premises. Going down to my pond, as usual, in quest of Kingfishers, I happened to take notice of a Crow Blackbird in the act of striking quickly with its bill into the water at the edge of the bank. Wondering what it found there for food, I cautiously approached, sneaking behind the shelter of an evergreen and bed of flowering shrubs. This bird had struck a small goldfish as it came up to the water's edge—struck it in the centre of its head with the sharp point of its bill. This blow only stunned the fish, but rendered it unable to dart away, although it could still squirm and wriggle; the Blackbird was earnestly trying to land its prey by repeatedly striking the fish so as to get a beak hold, which it finally did after many failures. Catching sight of me, it at once flew away, leaving the writhing and mortally wounded victim upon the earth. The mystery of that peculiar destruction of my goldfish was thus solved.

The habit of goldfish whereby they suck and bore at and into the grassy and mossy edges of a pond as they feed, renders them a comparatively shining mark for *Quiscalus*.—HENRY W. ELLIOTT, near Cleveland, Ohio.

Crowd Jones in distant.

As it went deliberately to work to eat its victim holding its body beneath one - or sometimes both of its feet - as a Hawk would have done, it took the skull and fastened upon the brain. I was near enough to see that its big, red, and thick, red, when it was dead. It was not reluctant to leave its prize, it again seized it in its beak and at the last moment tried to carry it up into the tree above. Its strength however was insufficient and it was obliged to drop it. When examining the sparrow, I found its brain had been cleanly scooped out, the sides and back of the throat were middle of all. I remember the Grackle killed me most emphatically for thus interfering and the moment my back was turned, I was down and returned it. All our native birds seem to bear a grudge against this Blackbird and rarely let pass an opportunity to harass it. It would seem that this habit is not without some cause.

A PECULIAR NEST OF THE BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—When the leaves fell in the autumn of 1876, I discovered a bird's nest suspended from a slender limb of a cotton-wood that stands, with others, on the outskirts of Charles City, (Iowa). This nest immediately attracted my attention, and I made several attempts to secure it, but was unsuccessful, as it hung near the

vegetarian once in the year.—ELISIA SLADE, Somers, Mass.
I had formerly considered the *Icterus baltimorensis* essentially insectivorous and frugivorous; I am now aware that some of them at least are decidedly

together, and with their young.
during the summer and frequently alighted in the trees, separately, to-
in either year, though they were in the garden more or less every day.
Quiscalus quiscula æneus Killing and Catching Goldfish.—During the

past summer, while noting the condition of my goldfish pond I frequently found many bodies of these fishes floating, bearing evidence of some sharp instrument having been used to effect their death: deep incisions, holes, and grooves in their heads and backs, etc. Carefully killing every Kingfisher and all the Herons, Bitterns being wholly absent, I became very much puzzled at the constant loss of life among these pretty fish of which

I have, I presume, some 3000 individuals in the pond. I first observed this evidence of destruction early in May last, and it was not until late in July that I detected the cause of it.

Large flocks of *Quiscalus q. æneus* make their home annually from early spring till late every fall, in the pine, spruce and hemlock groves which belong to my grounds; as I do not raise cereals, and devote my land to fruit culture, I regard these birds as the most valuable of their kind to me, and never have permitted them to be shot at or disturbed on my premises. Going down to my pond, as usual, in quest of Kingfishers, I happened to take notice of a Crow Blackbird in the act of striking quickly with its bill into the water at the edge of the bank. Wondering what it found there for food, I cautiously approached, sneaking behind the shelter of an evergreen and bed of flowering shrubs. This bird had struck a small goldfish as it came up to the water's edge—struck it in the centre of its head with the sharp point of its bill. This blow only stunned the fish, but rendered it unable to dart away, although it could still squirm and wriggle; the Blackbird was earnestly trying to land its prey by repeatedly striking the fish so as to get a beak hold, which it finally did after many failures. Catching sight of me, it at once flew away, leaving the writhing and mortally wounded victim upon the earth. The mystery of that peculiar destruction of my goldfish was thus solved.

The habit of goldfish whereby they suck and bore at and into the grassy and mossy edges of a pond as they feed, renders them a comparatively shining mark for *Quiscalus*.—HENRY W. ELLIOTT, near Cleveland, Ohio.

1884

- August 18 Saw large flocks this evening flying over
one place in Cambridge towards Boston's woods
where they have roosted ~~regularly~~ of late
years. ~~very autumn.~~
- " 20 In the yellow pine woods adjoining the
Catholic Cemetery, Watertown, I found a
number of these Grackles. They were scattered
about among the pines apparently seeking
shelter from the heat.
- " 25 The evening flight of Grackles over one place for
Boston's woods passed in one immense flock

to night. There must have been several
thousand birds, at least.

Aug. 26. The flight to night again
passed on one flock, a
solid column at least 1/8 of
a mile long.

" 27. Saw one large flock in
an orchard in Cambridge -
probably 400 or 500 birds.

Luscalus aeneus

Autumnal flocking and roosting.

Cambridge, Mass.

Sept. 6, 1882

Autumnal flocking & roosting

For the past week or two I have noticed large flocks of Brown Blackbirds flying over one place at sunset and always towards the East. Following their course, a few evenings since, I found that they went to roost in the pines of a place adjoining Norton's woods. And not only did they arrive from the west but from nearly every other direction until many hundreds must have been gathered together. I noticed the same flocks through Sept.

Cambridge, Mass.

Luscalus perspicuus aeneus

1885.

Flocking to roost.

July 16.

For the first time this season I saw three Grackles flying to the roost in Norton's woods this evening. At least 100 passed over one place in a few minutes, but they flew in much smaller flocks than they will later, not one twenty being seen in any one flock which usually only four or five would pass together. Many were very young with bob-tails and several of them alighted in one bird's nest to rest.

Mass. (Cambridge)

Luscalus aeneus

1886

Flying to roost.

Aug. 25

Several large flocks passing over one place at sunset steering for the great roost in Norton's grove.

1881 but in previous years I
have rarely seen the birds
about Cambridge after the
middle of August.

Cambridge, Mass.

Quiscalus purpureus aeneus

1885.

Flocking to roost.

July 16.

For the first time this season I saw three
Grackles flying to the roost in Norton's woods
this evening. At least 100 passed over one
place in a few minutes, but they flew
in much smaller flocks than they will later,
not one twenty being seen in any one
flock which usually only four or five would
pass together. Many were very young with
bob-tails and several of them alighted in
one bird's nest to rest.

Mass. (Cambridge)

Quiscalus aeneus

1886

Flying to roost.

Aug. 25

Several large flocks passing over one
place at sunset steering for the great
roost in Norton's grove.

Blackbird Flights at Burlington, Iowa. — The autumnal migrations of the Icteridae at Burlington, Iowa, are notable chiefly on account of the immense flocks of certain Blackbirds which congregate in that vicinity. The extensive swamps bordering the Mississippi River above and below the city, on the Illinois side, form an especially favorable rendezvous for these birds, three species of which are represented, nearly in equal numbers—*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*, *Scolecophagus carolinus*, and *Agelaius phoeniceus*. During September and October the cornfields of Iowa are visited by countless numbers of these black marauders, which wander about in mixed flocks of several thousands, passing the day in the fields and the night in the woodland or marshes. And it is during this period that so many thousands are poisoned and killed by the farmers. About the first of October these birds begin to appear from the more northern districts, pouring into the Burlington swamps in myriads, and by the middle of the month immense numbers have here collected. Just before sunrise vast flocks begin to rise out of the swamps and radiate in all directions towards the inland cornfields, where they spend the day, returning again to the swamps before sunset. These flocks are often a quarter of a mile in width and are more than an hour in passing—a great black band slowly writhing like some mighty serpent across the heavens in either direction, its extremities lost to view in the dim and distant horizon. Not unfrequently three or four such vast flocks are in sight at one time. How far away from their night resorts they go each day has not been observed; an hour and a half before sunset, twelve miles away from the river, the mighty armies of Blackbirds are still seen coming over distant hills and directing their courses toward the marshes. It is evident, however, that many miles are daily traversed in their journeys to and from their feeding grounds. Making liberal deductions for any possibility of over estimating, the numerical minimum of individuals in a single flock cannot be far from twenty millions.—CHARLES R. KEYES, *Des Moines, Ia.*

Auk, V. April 1888. p. 207-208.

471. *Blackbirds* [*Quiscalus aeneus*] *Catching Fish*. By Charles Aldrich.
Ibid., XV, p. 810. *Amer. Naturalist*.

Auk, XII, July, 1895, p. 303,

Quiscalus quiscula aeneus.

It was but yesterday that I saw a Crow Blackbird hovering over a pond after the manner of a Kingfisher. He did everything but dive into the water and plainly enough was in search of something to eat.—
G. S. MEAD, *Hingham, Mass.*

major

Distribution of New England Birds.-
A Reply to Dr. Brewer. H. A. Purdie.

(Records of Birds excluded from the Catalogue
by Dr. Brewer)

Quiscalus major. BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE. — "*Q. baritus*, Bonaparte. Thrush Blackbird. New Haven. Of the Thrush Blackbird one specimen only has been observed, by Dr. Whelpley at New Haven, and of course is rare in Connecticut." (Rev. J. H. Linsley, Cat. of the Birds of Conn., in Am. Jour. Sci. and Arts, Vol. XLIV, 1843, p. 249.) "Accidental. Have heard of one that was killed in Cambridge a few years since. Mr. E. A. Samuels tells me that a pair bred in Cambridge in 1861." (J. A. Allen, Proc. Ess. Inst., IV, p. 85, 1864.) Both these and the Connecticut bird are cited by Dr. Coues (Proc. Ess. Inst., V, p. 285, 1868) as valid. But I understand that more recently the authenticity of the specimens taken is doubted, they being referred to the Crow Blackbird (*Q. purpureus*). As Mr. Linsley also gives *Q. purpureus* as common, I see no reason for doubting his record. Of Mr. Samuels's birds, I have always understood him, and he still avers that two of them, in the flesh, were brought to him by Professor Jeffries Wyman, and that to his best knowledge and belief they were shot in the Cambridge salt marshes; that their rarity was commented on at the time, and that they were *not Q. purpureus*.

Bull. N.O.C. 2, Jan., 1877. p. 12-13.

More from Frogmore.

— Walter Bowen

A WHITE BLACKBIRD.

Early one morning last November I came in sight of my home. That is not an unusual thing, but it was unusual for me then for I had not seen it since August. I was tired,

wet, and hungry, and that is even a less unusual occurrence. But among a flock of Boat-tailed Grackles that fluttered about the deserted yard was one that was *pure white*. I could scarcely believe my eyes. I unlocked the door, deposited my luggage, and after getting the big spy glass clear of cobwebs, had a good, steady look. There could be no mistake. The bird was a "Jackdaw" sure enough, and the glass showed only faint traces of cream color overlaying the white. It was plainly a female from the size and proportions, and the rest of the flock did not seem to notice that they had such a *rara avis* among them. I put on the hominy pot and took a peep out of the window; stirred it and peeped again, looked over my shoulder while I ground the coffee and so spilt half of it on the floor but I would have given pounds of coffee and gone a month without that cheering beverage to have had that "white blackbird" in my hands.

But what was the use of all my yearning? My gun was away down in Palatka in quarantine, under suspicion of having the yellow fever. By right I should have been with it and not it with me. My little collecting pistol could not possibly expect to reach such a wary bird as a Jackdaw and the only other piece of artillery I had within reach was a big Sharpe's rifle that threw a 56-100 ball. For weeks I just watched that bird with longing eyes. I learned his — her, I should say — whole history from the neighbors. It was hatched in an oak tree about twenty rods from my door, and was whiter "when it was first born." Be that as it may, it did seem to me as I watched it from day to day as if the shades were getting darker about its neck, and before my gun arrived I began to wonder if the beautiful bird wasn't going to slowly fade away into black before my disconsolate eyes.

Well, to cut a long story short, my gun came at last and in a few days I was joined by an ornithological friend from Boston. The "white blackbird" was still at large, and as I expatiated to him upon its beauties the first night of his arrival I thought I detected a slightly incredulous look; also, I was mean enough to tell him I had been saving it for him. I hereby confess all. It was bullets as big as small potatoes that really saved that Jackdaw so long.

Next day we had a glorious tramp. I showed my friend lots of my favorite little nooks and corners and gave him a round of Snipe shooting, such as he had never even dreamed of before; and we got lots of other nice birds, too. And it made me think of long bygone

days when everything hereabouts was new and strange to me, too.

As we neared home along the edge of the Snipe bog an exclamation from my comrade caused me to turn and there was the "white blackbird" coming directly towards me. As I fired down she came and my friend cried, "I was sure I should hit him."

"What, did you shoot, too?" said I.

"Yes, did *you* shoot?" said he.

Our guns had made but one report, so simultaneous was our action, and there lay the beautiful bird just riddled at close quarters with two heavy snipeloads of eights. I succeeded, however, in making up a very good skin, though it took time and patience.

When in hand the specimen showed a decided brownish work over nearly all the plumage. The eyes were bright pink and the bill and feet also much brighter colored than the normal tint of the species. The tail was also considerably worn. I am still of the opinion that when in first feather this specimen showed only very faint traces of coloring over the white. Is it not possible that part — possibly all — partial albinos are nearly white at first? The viscera of this specimen were too badly mutilated to be examined well. I searched for intestinal worms which some authorities lead us to suspect are in all albinos, but found none.

G. & O. XIV. May, 1889 p. 71-72

*Corvus
principalis*

Corvus c. principalis

1896. Penobscot Bay, Maine.

Deer Island. June 21 ^{1 heard, Sunshine}
_{boat con}

White Island. In 1894 Conroy found a Raven's nest on this island. It was built in a spruce about 20 ft. above the ground & contained five eggs. Ignorant of their value to collectors Conroy allowed them to hatch & killing the young obtained a bounty of 10¢ each for their heads! He thinks that Ravens still breed on this island but we passed close by it July 6 without seeing or hearing any. Knight says that a pair nest near this place (on Deer Island) four years ago.

July 8

Isle aux Hauts. Three together among some dead stumps standing on a rocky hillside near the highest part of the island. I watched them for some time with my glass. Two, which appeared to be young birds fully grown, followed the third, doubtless their parent, from tree to tree alighting close to her and opening & fluttering their wings as if begging for food. Every few minutes one or another of the party called Kr-r-r-r-r, Krur-r-r-r, Krur-r-r-r. Watrous got almost within gunshot of these birds. He said they did not impress him as being much larger than Crows but that their necks looked much longer - a good impression. Conroy thinks the family were bred on ~~Deer~~ ^{Saddleback} Island where Ravens were seen & heard early in the Spring.

Early in May of this year Mr. Ralph W. Knight found a nest on one of the islands with 4 young nearly large enough to fly. He would not say on which island but probably on either Saddleback or Fog Island. The nest was "nearly as large as a Fish Hawk's" and was built in a dead Balsam at a height of about 25 ft.

.. 16

Deer Island. Ralph W. Knight told me to-day that early yesterday morning a Raven alighted on his father's barn & cawed until some King birds drove it off. It had been haunting the barn near his place for a week or two. Several years ago a Raven annoyed this family greatly by taking off a number of their chickens. It would alight in their dove yard & take the chickens from the coop within a few yards of the house.

"Grip", the Raven. Cambridge, Mass.

1897

June 4-

1900

Feb. 27

On June 4, 1897, R. M. Knight of Deer Island, Maine, wrote to Mr. Brewster, that he had three young Ravens captured in the spring and wished to sell them. These birds were taken from the nest ^{on Deer Island} by his brother, C. L. Knight. Mr. Brewster purchased two of them and they were put into comfortable quarters erected near the house, on Brattle St., in the fall of 1897. On Dec. ²⁵ 1897, one suddenly drooped and died. J. T. Clark made a skin of it. The bird was a female, and the skin is now in the collection, 47903.

The remaining bird lived and thrived, and enjoyed the full power of its voice. It heard constantly the Crows that are always in the neighborhood, and it developed a call something between that of a Crow and a Raven. At times it was kept in a large pen in the Museum cellar, where it always seemed perfectly happy. Grip, as it was christened, never grew tame, though it ^{would} take a piece of meat or an egg from your fingers, but would retreat quickly to its perch. It was constantly moving about in its pen, hopping from perch to perch, and to & from the ground. In the winter of 1897 & 1898, Mr. Chase was carpentering in the cellar of the Museum and the Raven soon learned to imitate the action of plucking in a most perfect manner. In the summer of 1898, Grip was sent down to James Bernier, at Upton, Me. and kept there. In Sept. of that year, Mr. Brewster went down to his camp at

Cambridge, Mass.

1897

June 4 Pine Point, Lake Umbagog, Maine, and Grip
1900 was taken there and kept in a large pen
Feb 27 during that month. It afterwards was
(2.) sent back to its old quarters in Cambridge.
Its food was meat scraps, chickens, bread
pigeons' eggs and the like and it was
always well and vigorous, and we were
all very fond of it. So passed the
winter of 1898 & 1899, and the whole year
1899 and Grip was accounted one of the
household.

An excitement occurred on the morning of
Feb. 3, 1900 when it was found that the
Raven was loose, and quietly perched in
one of the large Linden Trees near the house.
It had by constant pulling & picking made
a hole in the wire netting about its pen
and through the opening had escaped.
Mr. Brewster took some photographs of the bird
from the second story window in the house
on Sat. Feb. 3. Grip remained about in
the Lindens and on the Hubbard place,
across the street during Saturday & Sunday.
It was fed from the Goodriches' house but
it was wary and evaded capture, till
two small boys with the aid of a net
closed it from tree to tree on the evening
of Sunday Feb. 4 and secured it, when
once more Grip returned to its pen.

This winter has been a very open one
with no snow except for a few days on

Cambridge, Mass.

1897

June 1900 two or three occasions. A rather smart snow storm occurred on Sunday, Feb. 18. On Feb. 20 Feb 27 Mr Brewster noticed that Grip was flapping (3) on his back in the snow. Carl, the man, went in and examined it, but it seemed quite well and he thought it was only sporting. Heavy rains followed between the 22^d and 25th clearing the snow from the ground, and in the afternoon of Sunday, Feb 25th, the weather began to grow cold. The mercury stood at 14° at 7.30 A.M. the 26th. A very cold piercing wind blew the night before and on the morning of the 26th, Grip was found to be sick. His bowels were very much out of order, and the meat that had been put in his cage the day before was frozen. The bird was standing on the ground, and it waddled slowly with stiff gait. Carl took it into the museum cellar where it spent ^{two} ~~the~~ days. It ate cracker soaked in milk with apparent relish, but it crumbled in the straw most of the time. At 4 P.M. on Feb. 27 it began to breathe hard. I went down to see it with Gilbert & Carl and Mrs. Brewster came in (Mr. Brewster being sick in the house since Feb. 22). Poor Grip grew weaker and weaker and at 4.30 after a slight flutter it died.

Walter Deane

Cambridge, Mass.

1900

Mar. 5

Gilbert took the Raven to Mr. A. Fragar, on Sat. last the 3^d. Mr. Fragar will make the bird into a skin. He was skinned immediately on Sat. and Gilbert took the body to Dr. A. P. Cleoborne who has examined the parts carefully, and says that the only parts affected are the lungs. The bird died of pneumonia -

Result of an examination of the body of "Grip" the Raven, that died Feb. 27, 1900, by Dr. A. P. Chadbourne, Mar. 3, 1900 -

[Skin in collection of W. Brewster, 48510. Unfortunately the sex was not determined.]

Examination of raven four days after death.
Rigor mortis not present, head and extremities missing.

Chest.

Lungs. Right not abnormal
Left showed solidification of lower lobe from which frothy fluid exuded otherwise not abnormal.

Plurae.

Heart and pericardium normal.

Abdomen showed nothing abnormal so far as it seemed necessary to examine.

Stomach, and digestive organs not congested or showing signs of irritation, contents, partly digested food, one feather, gravel, etc.,

Cause of death acute lobar pneumonia. No evidence of poisoning. The bird took cold probably & was not poisoned.

Dr. A. P. C. & P. A. S.

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

55. *Corvus corax* Linn. RAVEN.—Rare at Grand Falls. Not met with at Fort Fairfield. "Very rare" at Houlton.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, July, 1882, p. 149

Birds within Ten Miles of Point
de Monts, Can., Comeau & Merriam

44. *Corvus corax*. RAVEN.—A common resident. May 12, 1882, Mr. Comeau found one of their nests on the face of a cliff about half-way between Godbout and Point de Monts. It contained four full-fledged young that must have been at least three or four weeks old.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct., 1882, p. 236

Birds, Haute Island, Bay of Fundy, July
26, 1887. W. L. Bishop, Kentville, N. S.

Raven, *Corvus corax*; common.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 145

A Collecting Trip—Dec. 1887.
John Ewart, Yarker, Ont. Can.

American Raven. Rare. Obtained one from lumbermen, which they had shot a day or two before.

O. & O. XIII, June, 1888 p. 94

Birds of Magdalen Islands.
Dr. L. B. Bishop.

33. *Corvus corax principalis*. NORTHERN RAVEN.—Common. Breeds on all the islands, but most frequently on those least inhabited.

Auk, VI, April, 1889, p. 147

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.
A. H. Alberger.

R 486. Raven. Common. Breeds.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 87

Dwight, Summer Birds of
Prince Edward Island.

[*Corvus corax principalis* RAVEN.—I was told that a pair of Ravens had formerly nested for several years on the face of the cliff at East Point, and while I think my informant could have made no mistake as to the species, I hesitate about admitting a bird to the list on hearsay only.]

Auk X, Jan, 1893, p. 10

252 C. H. MORRELL, *Winter Birds of Nova Scotia.*

[Auk
July

Auk, XVI, July, 1899, p.

14. *Corvus corax principalis*. NORTHERN RAVEN.—Not common. A pair seen at Shulee and another pair at Partridge Island, near Parrsboro.

Newfoundland Notes. A Trip up the
Humber River, Aug. 10-Sept. 24, 1899.

33. *Corvus corax principalis*. NORTHERN RAVEN.—Common. Apparently it takes the place of *Corvus americanus*, which is said not to occur on Newfoundland.

Louis H. Porter, New York City.

Auk, XVII, Jan., 1900, p.72.

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador
by Henry B. Bigelow.

62. *Corvus corax principalis*. RAVEN.—Locally common, especially so at Port Manvers.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p.29.

Notes on the birds of Cape Breton Island.
by Charles W. Townsend, M.D.
Auk, XXIII, Apr., 1906, p. 175-176.

Corvus corax principalis. NORTHERN RAVEN.— Along the northeast coast of Cape Breton, between Englishtown and Neil's Harbor, I found Ravens fairly common. Four or five were seen nearly every day. In searching for some good field mark to distinguish this species from the Crow, I found that the shape of the tail was diagnostic. The tail of the Crow when spread, or partly spread is evenly and but very slightly rounded, for the length of the outer feathers is nearly the same as that of the middle ones. In the Raven, however, the middle feathers are noticeably longer than the outer, and the gradation between the two or four middle feathers and those outside is especially marked. I found that the tail of a *Corvus*, once well seen, always showed definitely whether the bird was *corax principalis* or *brachyrhynchos*, and the croak or *caw*, if afterwards heard, always confirmed the diagnosis. The harsh croak of the Raven is of course always diagnostic. I have noted it as *errroak*, *errraa* and *errruk*, and once near the top of Smoky I was startled with a coarse cry that sounded like *helup*. As is well known, the larger size of the Raven is of but little help in distinguishing the two species, unless they are near together for direct comparison. Neither is the greater tendency of the Raven to sail or soar conclusive for this purpose, for Crows at times disport themselves in similar fashion.

The road to Ingonish winds along near the summit of Mount Smoky, and gives an unobstructed view into a huge ravine which nearly divides the great rocky mass into two parts, the sea lying close at hand on the east. This is a favorite resort for Ravens, and one can look down on the great birds showing glossy and purplish in the sunlight as they sail from one side of the ravine to the other. A couple of these birds sailed over this ravine, one close above the other, and as I watched them with my glasses, the lower bird turned completely on its back and both birds grappled for an instant in mid air. Later at Ingonish I saw a similar performance, but in this case the upper bird dropped its feet first, and the lower at once turned over to grapple with it.

At French River one morning I watched four Ravens performing some interesting evolutions about the cliffs. Each in turn or together would fly up almost vertically against the wind, and then swooping or darting down turned at times a complete somersault. That evening four Ravens, possibly the same birds, flew by hoarsely croaking and sailed off to the woods beyond the river.

33.
Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region,
Nipissing District, Ontario.
by Frederick C. Hubel. Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 50

33. **Corvus corax principalis.** NORTHERN RAVEN.— Fairly common.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming.
Part II Land Birds.
Auk, xxiv, Jan., 1907. p. 77-78.

178. *Corvus corax principalis*. NORTHERN RAVEN.—At one time abundant along the north shore of Lake Ontario, but they disappeared at a very early date. A letter written at Port Hope (62 miles east of Toronto) in 1820 mentions "ravens and rooks" as occurring there then; the Rev. John Doel tells me the last pair killed was in the Queen's Park about 1848.

Two Ravens (*Corvus corax principalis*) Seen at Harpswell, Maine.— In bringing the local status of the Raven up to date, it seems desirable to record two living examples which I saw at Little Mark Island, Harpswell, Maine, October 5, 1889. Little Mark Island is about nine and a half nautical miles nearly east of Portland.

The Raven was a bird with which I had had a long acquaintance: therefore, as I watched this pair under favorable conditions, and listened to their characteristic notes, I was perfectly sure of the identification.— ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Portland, Me.* *Auk*, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 100.

The Raven near Portland, Maine.—In 1882 I made note¹ of a Raven, presumably *Corvus corax principalis*, which was killed in the town of Cumberland, near Portland, December 31, 1875. I examined the specimen at the time; but I do not know what became of it, and therefore cannot positively state that it represented *principalis*.

No doubt the Raven was to be found regularly about Portland in olden times;² but I am able to cite only one other record³ of its occurrence within recent years, and that is regrettably indefinite. I have never seen the bird alive near the city. I have, however, seen a second local specimen. A handsome male, quite typical of *principalis*, was taken on Cape Elizabeth, January 12, 1884, was secured in the flesh for my collection and was transferred, a few years later, to the cabinet of the Portland Society of Natural History where it remains (No. 3773, N. C. B.).—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Me.* *Auk*, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 100

¹ Proc. Portland Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. II, p. 17.

² See Brewster, Birds of the Cambridge Region, p. 237.

³ Smith, Forest and Stream, Vol. XIX, 1883, p. 485.

In Maine

Corvus Coriivorus

Manly Hardy tells me that Ravens always winter at a point about 150 miles north of Bangor. They also winter, he says, at Moonhead Lake

Proceedings of the American Ornithologists Union
by Mr. & Mrs. [unclear]

Corvus corax principalis. NORTHERN RAVEN.—1909, Nov. 7, one
shot — mounted and is in a private collection.

Ank [unclear] 19 p. 437,

Winter Birds of Webster, N. H. by Falco.
American Raven, (*Corvus corax carolinensis*). One
specimen taken in Sutton, N. H., Dec. 20,
1878, and another seen.

O. & O. X. Jan. 1885. p. 4

The Raven in Southern New Hampshire, and Other Notes.—On the afternoon of July 4, 1903, while all the land was dim with fire-cracker smoke, a solitary Raven, coming who-knows-whence and going who-knows-whither, wandered over the rocky ridge of Mount Monadnock, in southwestern New Hampshire. I was sitting outside my camp, midway of the mountain ridge, and several times dimly heard the wanderer's gruff, inarticulate croak, without recognizing it. In Norway or Sardinia, where I have known *Corvus corax* familiarly, this sound would have been instantly intelligible to me; but here, in the Massachusetts hill country of southernmost New Hampshire, unvisited by ravens for many a year, I was slow to grasp its meaning. Two companions were sitting near me, and I credited them with having facetiously uttered the ribald grunts. Nor did these companions at once arouse my interest by exclaiming: "See that crow over there!" I could n't see him without moving, and sat still. But a peculiar and vaguely familiar heavy 'swishing' of wings, coupled with the news that the crow was persistently hovering over our provisions, brought me to my feet to have a look at the bird myself. Stepping around the cabin I beheld, not a crow, but a big, dingy raven, heavy-headed, huge-beaked, and deeply emarginate-winged. He was raspingly beating the air, thirty feet above my outspread provisions and cooking utensils, and scarcely ten paces from where I stood.

Just so I have seen the European Raven flopping about over our vulture-baiting donkey carcass, in the hot fields of Sardinia,—hour-long, day after day. The scene was vividly recalled to me by this strayed carrion-biter of the North American wilderness. He was so strangely unsuspecting that he not only did not veer off when I appeared around the corner, but actually let me walk almost directly under him before he showed symptoms of alarm, and remitted his scrutiny of the victual-strewn ground. Then he started away to the northward along the mountain ridge, flying rather slowly and laboriously, with but little sailing, and presently disappeared behind a rocky knoll, on the northwest side of the mountain.

low's Sparrow and the Short-billed Marsh Wren. The sparrow is very rare in Dublin, though common in the lower and more alluvial meadows eight miles to the northeast (Hancock and Bennington). Mr. Hoffmann finds it a rare breeder in the Alstead Hills, about twenty miles northwest of Dublin. There also, both he and I have found the Yellow winged Sparrow breeding.

The Raven in Southern New Hampshire: A Comment. — Apropos of my Monadnock Raven-record, published in 'The Auk,' for October, 1904 (p. 491), Mr. John E. Thayer writes me that a yearling Raven escaped from his aviary at Lancaster, Mass., less than forty miles southeast of Monadnock, on May 28, 1903, and disappeared after loitering about Lancaster for almost a week. Probably, as Mr. Thayer suggests, it was this bird that appeared on Monadnock on July 4. At all events, the likelihood that such was the case robs my record of all value.—GERALD H. THAYER, *Monadnock, N. H.* *Auk*, 21, Jan., 1906, p. 81.

Notes on Birds about Brandon, VT.

During the fall of 1879, a fine specimen of the American Raven (*Corvus corax carnivorus*) remained in this immediate vicinity for nearly a month, but successfully eluded capture.

Bull. N. O. O., 7, Jan, 1882, p. 64. *F. H. Knowlton.*

18. *Corvus carinivorus*, ¹⁸⁸⁴ Nov. 17

E. Mass. 1884.

Spowick, Mass.

Corvus carinivorus

1884

Nov. 17. At Spowick Beck Farm I saw a Corvus
to-day which we both felt sure was C. carinivorus.
It passed us within a hundred yards, flying
rather slowly, heading northward along the shore.
It was silent but we had such a good view
of it that we have no doubts of its identity. It
looked very large - double the size of a crow which
passed a few minutes later.

Corvus carinivorus

In Mass.

Williamstown, Mass.

I have examined a fine adult Raven
in the Museum of the College of Williamstown
which is labeled Williamstown, Mass. Secured
by purchase by S. [Lamborn] J. [Penny].

There is another in the collection of
the Natural History Society of Williamstown
College (a separate collection owned and
controlled by the undergraduates) marked
"Williamstown, Dover F. Y. Coale, 1877."
This also is an adult bird.

American Raven in Connecticut.

On September 18, 1890, a specimen of the
American Raven was taken at this place.

O. J. Hagenaw.

So. Manchester, Conn.

J. G. O. 15. Oct. 1890. p. (157 ?)

Some Birds of Lewis Co, N. Y.
C. Hart Merriam

In the Eastern (Adirondack) region

Corvus corax, is found breeding

Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1878. p. 53

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

85. *Corvus corax carnivorus* (Bartram) Ridgway. RAVEN.—Common resident throughout the Adirondacks.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 231

Albinistic Plumages. R. Deane.

18. *Corvus corax*. RAVEN. — A specimen in abnormal plumage is described in "Fauna Boreali-Americana" (Vol. I, p. 291). "A pied individual was killed on the south branch of the Mackenzie, from a flock of the common sort. Its neck, fore part of the back, and part of the wings were gray; the rest of its plumage black.

Bull. N.O.C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 28

The Northern Raven breeding in New England.—During a trip to the outer islands of Penobscot Bay, Maine, I found on June 15, 1897, a brood of three young Ravens (*Corvus corax principalis*), fully fledged and grown, in the possession of two fisherman's boys. They were taken from a nest in a spruce tree on a small uninhabited island about the middle of May, being at that time about ready to fly. One of the old birds was seen hovering at a safe distance. In captivity they each had a wing clipped, and remained at large about the house, though one, wilder than the others, escaped several times to the woods.

One of the boys conducted me to the nest. It was about twenty feet from the ground, two-thirds way up the tree, in a crotch close to the trunk, and was a great accumulation of gnarled, crooked sticks, some of the largest at the bottom being as thick as a man's thumb. Some two feet across on top, its size was about that of the nest of the Red-tailed Hawk. It was deeply hollowed, profusely lined with grass and especially sheep's wool, and emitted a strong, disagreeable odor. On the branches below were caught numerous sticks, which evidently the birds had dropped. A few days later I examined a nest of the Common Crow on a neighboring island from which the young had recently left. It was almost exactly like the Raven's nest, except that smaller sticks were used, wool was entirely absent, and the strong odor was lacking.

I purchased the young, and took them home with me alive. Two of them are still (September 10) in health; the other died August 5 from some bowel trouble. Moulting was first noticed about July 20, when blue-black feathers began to appear in the dull brownish under parts. They are still moulting, the head being the part most affected.

Their habits in captivity are not unlike those of the Common Crow, especially in reference to their hiding of objects. But they manifest more decided carnivorous tastes, preferring flesh to everything else, and tearing up bodies of birds or mammals like veritable hawks. A live young Marsh Hawk incarcerated with them in their roomy cage was next day killed and entirely devoured, save the leg bones and quills. They are very noisy when hungry, and their harsh croaking is audible at a considerable distance.—HERBERT K. JOB, *North Middleboro, Mass.*

NOTES ON A FEW MAINE BIRDS.—*Corvus corax*. RAVEN.—These birds are frequently seen about the islands on the Maine coast, to the west of Penobscot Bay, particularly on Isle au Haut, Duck Islands, Cranberry Islands, and other points to the westward, but so far as I can ascertain they have not been found breeding on our coast east of Grand Menan. At that place, however, Mr. George A. Boardman has found them nesting on the high cliffs.

On May 5 of this year (1881) I received two Raven's eggs, which were taken from a nest on Duck Island about the last of April. Both birds were shot down, but were not secured. The nest was placed in the top of a spruce tree, and described as a very bulky affair, built of sticks and lined with moss, cow's hair, and wool. It contained three eggs at that time.

Several of these birds were poisoned on Isle au Haut in the winter of 1879-'80 by a Mr. Curran who was using meat poisoned with strychnine to kill foxes. The inhabitants assert that they breed on that island, and that they kill lambs by alighting on them and picking out their eyes.

Harry Merrill, Bangor, Maine.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct. 1881, p. 249.

RAVEN'S NEST.—Since the 23d of February, 1880, we have kept an English Raven which has not been confined but had its liberty to go where it pleased, but it has never strayed far from its home. For the past year we have resided on Laurel Hill, near the centre of Norwich City. The east side of this hill is a wooded, rocky precipice, about two hundred feet deep and one or two hundred yards in extent. Nature could not have made a place more suitable to the habits of this bird, and during the present month of July we have discovered that it has built a perfect nest in every respect. It is of the same materials throughout and a perfect counterpart of a Crow's nest only it is somewhat larger. This nest is near the upper surface of the precipice on a large flat ledge of rock and covered by another similar rock. The nest cannot be seen either from above or below. We always supposed this bird to be pinnioned, but we have seen it make circling flights of fifty to one hundred yards. Whether it is male or female, we know not. Jako has led quite an interesting and amusing life while in our possession, which we would tell had we the room to do so.

O. & O. VII. Oct. 1882, p. 164

I had the good fortune that afternoon of coming across two nests of the American Raven, (*Corvus corax carnivorus*). They were in willow trees about a quarter of a mile apart, and the four ravens were very much worked up over our arrival. Taking flight they circled round and round us, over head, like a hawk, until they almost disappeared from sight and we could hardly see them above. We would occasionally hear that hoarse cry that is so characteristic of this bird, come from the clouds as it seemed.

The nests were about the neatest and best made nest of a large bird that I have ever seen, well shaped and very deep. The inside was all nicely lined with tufts of cow hair. In one nest the hair was all red, while for the make up of the other white steers must have suffered, for I have no doubt but what these ravens got their hair from the backs of living animals. I have seen them in the severe winter weather alight on the back of a steer and pick out huge mouthfuls of flesh, so hungry and voracious do they become.

The eggs were eight in number; in both sets one being perfectly fresh but the others I could not save, not having proper tools with me. In color they were bright green with great elongated blotches of black running lengthwise with the egg. All sixteen were very much alike, hardly distinguishable.

Measurement averaged about 1.98 x 1.30, some being over 2.00 and a few under.

These birds differ very much from the common crow in every way, size, action and croak. I remember the first one I ever saw. I knew it was a raven in a moment. This large set of eight eggs is now in my collection.

Greely, Col.

F. M. Dilla

O. & O. XII. July. 1887. p. 99.

Decrease of Birds in Mass. J. A. Allen

In scores of the early enumerations of the birds of New England, and of the Atlantic States generally, the Raven, as well as the Crow, is mentioned. This seems to imply that the Raven, at the time of the first settlement of the country, was more or less common from Virginia to Maine, and that persecution, combined with its natural timidity, has caused its expulsion from the more thickly settled parts of the Eastern States.

Bull. N. O. C. I, Sept, 1876. p. 5-57

Correspondence

Truro, Nova Scotia, July 8, 1889. Chas. A. McLennan

Can you tell me if a Raven ever has a white or yellow bill? The only live Raven that I got close enough to examine apparently had an ivory-colored bill. It might possibly be coated with something it was eating, but seemed to be the color of the bill.

Chas. A. McLennan.

Truro, Nova Scotia, July 8, 1889.

O. & O. XIV. Aug. 1889 p. 126.

82. Ravens and Crows. By S. B. Buckley. *Ibid.*, XIV, p. 44.—Mostly about the distribution of these species in Texas, and on some traits of the Crow. For. & Stream

MEASUREMENTS.

Crows c. principalis

CATL. NO.	COL. W. B. SEX.	LOCALITY.	DATE.	LEG. EX.	WING. TAIL. TAR.	M.D.	BILL.						REMARKS.
							Culmen from Base.	Culmen from Front.	Feather's Culmen from Nostril.	Depth of Bill at Nostril.			
5451	♀ juv	Nagdale, Isles	June 30-1881		16.30 10.25 2.61		2.94	2.44	1.77	.98			
13541	♀	Bechevine, Labrador.	Sept 3-1884		16.50 9.85 2.58		3.08	2.63	1.89	.98			
10153	♂	Box Harbor, New Brunswick	Jan'y 3-1886		16.60 10.05 2.55		3.08	2.61	2.00	1.06			
10152	♀	Sole au Harat, Maine.	Feb'y 15-1885		17.00 9.86 2.55		2.95	2.50	1.84	1.11			
19927	♀	"	March 10-1889		17.58 10.47 2.45		3.05	2.60	1.83	1.05			
10151	♂	"	Feb'y 15-1885		17.00 10.46 2.66		3.20	2.64	1.96	1.08			
13549	♂	Saleford, Maine.	" 4. "		17.00 10.20 2.65		3.22	2.72	2.02	1.05			
394	?	Youngtown, Mass.			17.00 10.10 2.67		3.17	2.75	1.90	1.06			
28866	♂	Asheville, North Carolina	Oct 24-1889		17.50 10.94 2.81		3.09	2.60	1.94	1.08			
28868	♀	"	" 29. "		16.85 10.25 2.47		2.85	2.55	1.87	1.04			
28869	♀	"	" " "		15.80 9.55 2.53		2.88	2.55	1.86	.99			
28870	♀	"	Nov. 1. "		16.50 10.00 2.47		3.00	2.57	1.91	1.03			
28867	♂	"	Oct 29. "		17.32 10.05 2.71		3.10	2.64	1.94	1.07			
19970	♀	Ontonagon, Michigan	Oct. 8. 1881.		16.50 9.92 2.42		3.00	2.68	1.95	1.02			