

I have no means of ascertaining how far north true *M. formicivorus* ranges, but take the bird now in my possession to be our *M. f. bairdi*. This evening I made a skin of this specimen, and in preparing it found no difficulty in passing the skin of the neck over the skull. I also noted that the epibranchials of the hyoid arches reached a point on the top of the cranium at an imaginary line joining the posterior peripheries of the outer borders of the orbits, in other words, no further forwards than the parietal region at the vault of the skull. When I do make skins of birds now-a-days, I have a habit of running a thread through a label giving full data in regard to the specimen, then pass the needle through the body, the eyes, and the back of the skull, all of which we have removed in making the skin, tie the whole in a bunch, and throw with others into a jar of fresh alcohol. It is a capital practice, saves excellent material, and was resorted to in the present instance.—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Fort Wingate, N. Mexico.*

Egg-laying extraordinary in *Colaptes auratus*.—On May 6th, 1883, I found in a large willow tree, a hole containing two eggs of this bird; I took one, leaving the other as a nest-egg, and continued to do this day after day until she had laid *seventy-one eggs*.

The bird rested two days, taking *seventy-three days to lay seventy-one eggs*. I think this is something very unusual; I have quite frequently heard of from fifteen to twenty-eight being taken from one bird, but this is a large number comparatively. I have the set complete, in my cabinet, and prize it very highly.

This was published in a small journal called the 'Young Oölogist', Vol. I, No. 2, 1884; but it being a rather obscure paper, and not reaching the general public, I concluded to send it to 'The Auk' for publication.—CHARLES L. PHILLIPS, *Taunton, Mass.*

The Range of *Quiscalus major*.—In the A. O. U. 'Check List' the habitat of the Boat-tailed Grackle is given as the "coast region of the South Atlantic and Gulf States, from North Carolina to Texas." The failure to assign a more northern limit of range is evidently an oversight, for the bird occurs as a regular inhabitant as far north at least as Cobb's Island, Virginia, about twenty-five miles above Cape Charles, and breeds in considerable numbers on certain of the marshy islands off the coast above the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Robert Ridgway kindly informs me that during his visit to this region in July, 1881, he saw straggling flocks of this species almost daily, and killed several birds. They were moulting and in very poor plumage, and none were preserved. Mr. Ridgway further states that although he found no nests he has "no doubt these birds were, or had been, breeding either in the marshes on Cobb's Island or else on one of the neighboring islands." In July, 1884, I noticed the birds occasionally on Cobb's Island and on several of the islands adjacent thereto, and saw numbers of eggs that had been taken earlier in the season, chiefly on a small sparsely-wooded island, by the keeper of the U. S. Life Saving Station on Cobb's Island.—HUGH M. SMITH, *Washington, D. C.*