

It may be that when the birds feed on refuse or carrion that there is not enough binding material to hold the pellets together for any length of time. Will not some one who lives in Raven territory collect more data?—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Santa Barbara, California.*

**The Purple Grackle at Albany, Georgia.**—During the week of April 14 to 22, I was very much interested in observing two pair of Purple Grackles feeding in the residence section of Albany, Ga., within one block of the business district. The four birds frequented this locality only, so far as I was able to learn, during that time and were observed and commented on by a number of people. They were remarkably tame and fed on the lawns within five feet of parties in conversation. Both pairs, so far as I could judge, were in full plumage and attracted considerable attention. The locality on which they fed during the entire week did not cover more than two city blocks. We never note these birds in the cities, through this section, which caused my interest.—PETER A. BRANNON, *Department of Archives, Montgomery, Ala.*

**Note on the Generic Names *Schiffornis Bonaparte* and *Scotothorus Oberholser*.**—The generic name *Schiffornis* was first proposed by Bonaparte (*Ateneo Italiano*, II, No. 11, August, 1854, p. 314) as follows:

"34. *Schiffornis*, Bp.—74. *major*, Bp.—75. *turdina* Wied.—76. *minor* Schiff."

As Dr. C. E. Hellmayr has already indicated (*Genera Avium*, IX, 1910, p. 24), two of the three specific names originally included—*major* Bonaparte and *minor* Schiff—were at that time *nomina nuda*. The third, "*turdina* Wied," is readily identifiable as *Muscicapa turdina* Wied (*Beitr. Naturg. Brasil*, III, Abt. 2, 1831, p. 817), which is the type of the genus *Scotothorus* Oberholser (*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, 1899, p. 208). Dr. Hellmayr concludes that the name *Schiffornis* as used by Bonaparte in the publication above cited is a *nomen nudum*, because "two of the three species mentioned (*S. major* and *S. minor*) were undescribed at that time, while the third (*S. turdina*) belongs to *Scotothorus*." It seems clear, however, that this disposition of the name is not the correct one, while the two species, *S. major* and *S. minor*, being then undescribed, are, of course, not to be considered, the third, *S. turdina* Wied, which is perfectly tenable, becomes, by virtual monotypy, the type of *Schiffornis* Bonaparte. Since, furthermore, the name *Schiffornis* Bonaparte is long anterior to *Scotothorus* Oberholser and has the same species for its type, it must take the place of the latter, and the species and subspecies of that genus stand as follows:

*Schiffornis turdinus turdinus* (Wied).

*Schiffornis turdinus wallacii* (Sclater and Salvin).

*Schiffornis turdinus olivaceus* (Ridgway).

*Schiffornis turdinus amazonus* (Sclater).