

The three Cowbird eggs, moreover, are enough alike to be accredited to one female. Assuming this, and bearing in mind the close relationship, could it have been that the Red-wing, possibly accompanying the Cowbird while on her egg-laying rounds, became a subject to suggestion?—HAROLD M. HOLLAND, *Galesburg, Ill.*

The Glossy Cowbird (*Molothrus atronitens*) in Barbados.—During a few months investigation of the birds of this island, in the winter of 1921–22, I became convinced that several new species had been introduced and had become breeding residents since Feilden (*Birds of Barbados, Ibis*, p. 447, 1880), Cory (*Birds of the West Indies, Auk*, 1886–1889) and other authors (about the same time), wrote on this subject. I propose to say something, later, in more extended 'Notes on the Resident Birds of Barbados'; meantime I wish to report briefly on one of these recent immigrants not listed by any of the writers above mentioned. I refer to *Molothrus atronitens*.

Shortly after my arrival in Barbados and while watching a large feeding flock of the only "Blackbird" known to Feilden, *Holoquistulus fortirostris* (Lawr.), I saw, also feeding in the same meadow, an allied but different species of Blackbird. They were smaller, and showed distinct variations in plumage. Above all, they had no traces of yellow about their eyes. In looking through Dawson's 'Hand-List of the Birds of British Guiana,' 1916, it struck me that the Rice Bird (Lazy Bird as the natives style it) closely resembled my new acquaintance, and I finally felt sure that the Guiana species, with which I was familiar, was closely allied to, if not identical with the bird I then saw in Barbados. After interviewing such local naturalists and others most likely to give me reliable and definite information about the stranger, I concluded that this species, the nearest limits of whose range had hitherto been set down as the island of Carriacou, some 200 from Barbados, had first been seen on the latter island some ten years before. My most effective aid in establishing the fact of this introduction, as well as in proving the dispersal of the species throughout the island, was Mr. H. P. Bascom of Bridgetown. At my request he has written me the following notes, with which my own observations and investigations agree:—"I first noticed the strange Blackbirds in 1916, when only a few could be seen on the South East of the Island—above the Marine Hotel and in that section. There they did not multiply to any great extent, but later they invaded the yards of the Sugar Plantations in search of food, around the feeding troughs of horses and mules; and soon thereafter they began to increase. At present they may be seen singly, in pairs or in flocks of from about 50 to 150; and they have found their way into the stores in the busiest streets of the town. Entering through even the barred windows at the back of these stores, they clean up all the stray grains of corn, oats, rice, etc., and they can daily be seen perched in the rafters whistling and apparently quite at home. These birds are often seen on lawns and pastures, and are very fond of oats."

"When the Cowbirds are first fledged they are all brown and the females remain brown through life. The males, on the other hand, change gradually until, in their adult state, they assume a beautiful purple-black colour. This change accounts, no doubt, for the varied colours and markings met with. There is no yellow in or about the eyes of these birds.

"Now that I know the new birds to be Cowbirds I understand and believe the reports from several people that they have seen the Yellowbird (*Dendroica capitalis*) feeding the young of these birds. I have, however, been (recently) informed of a locality on the other side of the Island where there are large numbers of nests of the Cowbird, so that the habit of laying its eggs in the nests of other birds is evidently not universal."

Of course the only certain method of settling the question of identification was to take a few male and female specimens and have them examined by a competent expert. Mr. Bascom was able to have this done for me, and herewith I append extracts from a report by Dr. A. Wetmore of the National Museum, Washington, D. C., who kindly examined two male and two female specimens taken near Bridgetown:—"The four specimens of Blackbirds from Barbados, forwarded to the U. S. National Museum by Mr. H. P. Bascom at your request, prove to be the Glossy Cowbird, *Molothrus atronitens*, a species that does not appear to have been recorded previously from Barbados. In its previously known range, *M. atronitens* is found along the northern coast district of South America—in the Guianas and Venezuela—and northward through Trinidad and Tobago to the Island of Carriacou in the Grenadines. There is an old record for the species from Viques Island in the Virgin Islands group, east of Porto Rico, but the bird is probably accidental at that point, as I did not find it there during a period of three weeks devoted to field work in that island. Bra-bourne and Chubb record *M. atronitens* from northern Brazil. The specimens forwarded by Mr. Bascom do not seem to differ from a small series from farther south, save that the females appear somewhat grayer than the single bird of that sex from other regions—a skin from Venezuela. The difference in this case is perhaps due to a different stage in the plumage."—CASEY A. WOOD, ? *West Madison St., Chicago, Ill.*

Evening Grosbeaks in Maine.—The following records by members of the Stanton Bird Club have been submitted to me and seem worthy of record. Mr. Ralph Potter states that these birds first appeared at his place at Lewiston, November 15, 1921, and remained until May 12, 1922. During the cold weather they were associated in a flock of about forty but as the weather became milder they dwindled in numbers till only half a dozen were left. He fed them sixty pounds of sunflower seed.

A similar flock came to the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Stevens in Auburn later in the winter. On May 13, 1922, the last of this flock was seen. A single male was seen on May 14, and again on May 21.—CARRIE ELLA MILLER, *Lewiston, Maine.*