

Comparison of this specimen with examples of *Myiarchus cinerascens cinerascens* from the Lower Colorado River region in southeastern California and *Myiarchus cinerascens pertinax* from the Cape region of Lower California proved that this bird belonged to neither of these two races. In the absence of material for further comparisons, the specimen was shown to Mr. A. J. van Rossem, who tentatively pronounced it to be *Myiarchus cinerascens inquietus*. However, to be absolutely certain of this identification, he requested that the specimen be sent to him at Pasadena, where it could be carefully compared with a good series of *inquietus* in the Dickey collection.

The bird was returned with the following notation: "This specimen is typical *inquietus* and cannot be matched by any so-called 'variants' of either *cinerascens* or *pertinax*." This specimen, therefore, is not only an addition to the avifauna of Lower California, but it also provides the first reliable record of *inquietus* within the territory covered by the 'Check-list' of the American Ornithologists' Union.

Flycatchers stated to be *Myiarchus nuttingi* were formerly recorded from Arizona,¹ but later, when the genus *Myiarchus* was revised,² these birds were found to be in reality *M. cinerascens*. *M. nuttingi* was said to occur in southern Mexico and Guatemala, with *M. nuttingi inquietus* occupying the area to the north between *M. nuttingi* and *M. cinerascens*. Recently,³ intergradation found between the supposed species *nuttingi* and *cinerascens* within the northern part of the range of *M. nuttingi inquietus* places the known races of *nuttingi* in subspecific rank under *Myiarchus cinerascens*. Hence, the use of the name *Myiarchus cinerascens inquietus* in the present instance.

This record of the occurrence of a form whose habitat is the mainland directly east of the peninsula of Lower California is of decided interest ecologically. On first thought, the presence of an individual bird out of its normal range might be termed as accidental. But the physical similarity of this particular part of the peninsula to the Sonoran mainland across the Gulf of California suggests a reason beyond the point of mere accident. The fact that such plants as the giant cactus (*Pachycereus pringlei*) and such birds as the Mexican Screech Owl (*Otus asio cinerascens*) exist in typical or nearly typical form at this latitude on both sides of the Gulf offers some evidence that the attraction to the locality where this bird was captured was not purely accidental.—LAURENCE M. HUEY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif.*

Jay and Bushtit Nesting in Close Proximity.—While looking for Jay's nests in the hills near Benicia, Solano County, California on April 14,

¹ Fisher, A. K. *Myiarchus nuttingi* in Arizona. Auk, IX, 1892, p. 201.

² Nelson, E. W. A Revision of the North American Mainland Species of *Myiarchus*. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XVII, 1904, pp. 21-50.

³ van Rossem, A. J. Report on a Collection of Land Birds from Sonora. Trans. San Diego Soc. of Nat. Hist., VI, No. 19, 1931, p. 261.

1931, I came across a pair of nests in the lower limbs of a live oak which were very interesting. A California Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus californicus*) and a California Jay (*Aphelocoma californica immanis*) had constructed nests within eight inches of each other, the former being a trifle above and to one side of the latter. Both nests had been constructed in a previous season, possibly two years ago, the heavy, evergreen foliage of the live oak having furnished sufficient protection to keep them in fairly good condition.

Jays have a reputation of robbing eggs and young from the nests of smaller birds, and Bushtits are no exception. It would have been interesting to know if the nests may have both been in use at the same time. Both birds breed at about the same season, for in this vicinity I have collected eggs of each on the same day and from trees not far apart.

Even though it seems hardly probable that the two species could have dwelt so close together at the same time, such close proximity of their nests was interesting.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, Calif.*

An Old Record for the Western Meadowlark from Ohio.—There is a specimen of a Meadowlark in the Dickey collection at Pasadena, California, which is quite evidently the western species (*Sturnella n. neglecta*). The skin has the following label and history: The label reads "*Sturnella m. magna* ♂ 1 Lakewood, Ohio 4-8-1880." The reverse has printed on it "Collection of Frederic H. Kennard, Collector S. Hall." The skin was obtained by the Dickey collection with the A. B. Howell collection in 1923. Mr. van Rossem of the California Institute of Technology has examined this specimen and pronounced it typical *neglecta*. It is with his permission that I submit the record.—J. STEVENSON, *Cleveland, Ohio.*

Observations on the Color of the Iris in the Boat-tailed Grackle (*Megaquiscalus major*).—In 'The Auk,' (vol. XLV, 506, October 1928) Major Allan Brooks makes certain statements in regard to the iris and habits of *Megaquiscalus major* and *M. m. macrourus*, concluding the note with the request that anyone having "wider knowledge of both birds in life than I possess, come forward with further evidence."

I had definite opinions in regard to one of his statements at the time but concluded to study the question critically and also to wait and see what others would have to say. An examination of every issue of 'The Auk' since that date has failed to reveal any observation and rather than let the request go unanswered and also to give the facts of the case at least locally, this note has been prepared. It is incomplete insofar that it embraces no observations on *M. m. macrourus* as I have never seen that bird in life. With *major* however, I claim intimate acquaintance; since school-boy days it has been as familiar to me as have "buzzards" and the abundance of the latter about Charleston has furnished material for many stories!

Though having seen and studied the Boat-tailed Grackle from Wilmington, N. C., to Titusville, Florida, the area about Charleston has been the