

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

scene of most of my investigations and it seems strange that there should be any doubt or contradiction as to the color of the eyes of this species. Yet it is evident that confusion does exist and I have received letters from northern ornithologists asking for first hand information on this very subject, as they state that little or nothing can be found on it in ornithological literature. Perusal of my own limited library bears out this assertion. Only in the 'Birds of America' of the Nature Lover's Library, published by the University Society, New York, 1923, Editor-in-Chief, T. Gilbert Pearson, does any information appear and the color of the iris in *major* is there listed as "light yellowish."

Major Brooks makes the statement that in this species the iris "is always dark brown" and it is this assertion which is utterly at variance with all the observations I have made for many years. As I have seen it the iris in *major* is invariably yellowish in the male bird. It differs in shade, running from lemon yellow to a deep straw color but *always* yellowish and so distinct that it may be seen at a considerable distance. I have called this fact to the attention of numerous visiting ornithologists and not one had failed to note it, indeed, they could not but see it. In females of *major* the iris is sometimes yellow but usually a light brown which, at some distance, gives the appearance of being dark. Young males have a brownish iris but immediately lose it on attaining full plumage and assume the yellow. I have asked Messrs. Herbert R. Sass and Edward S. Dingle about this matter as they are just as familiar with *major* locally as I am and they expressed surprise that there should be any doubt about the yellow eye.

In regard to Major Brooks' statements that *macrourus* is a noisier bird than *major* and that they seem more inclined toward human habitation, I cannot say, never having studied the former but if there is any noisier bird than the Boat-tailed Grackle it must be a seven-days wonder. This species comes freely into towns and cities along the South Carolina and Georgia coasts and is a daily sight in abundance, nesting commonly in close proximity to houses in Georgetown and Beaufort, South Carolina and Brunswick, Georgia as well as the city of Charleston. And everywhere one finds it the bird calls, croaks, screams, groans, clacks, grunts and shrieks in never ceasing din. However, the Great-tailed Grackle may excel it in these points but as to the color of the iris I take exception. I have yet to see a male bird of *major* which lacks the yellow eye. Like Major Brooks I reiterate the request that others voice their observations on this matter.—  
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**Bohemian Waxwings in Colorado.**—It is highly probable that the 1930-1931 invasion of the northern parts of the United States by Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrula*) was not nearly of the magnitude of that of 1916-17, yet it was widespread in Colorado, and also in large numbers.

Only one locality in the State, usually reported upon by my friends, exhibited none of these birds during the last winter. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. J. Bailey of Walden, Colorado (North Park) believe that their neighbor-