

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) in Northern Ohio.—While driving along the Bay bridge swamps about five miles west of Sandusky on the east side of Sandusky Bay, on May 11, 1934, my attention was called to a strange bird perched on a reed in a swampy meadow. On second glance, with 8 x binoculars, the bird proved to be a Yellow-headed Blackbird. I had the opportunity of observing its white wing patches as it flew across the road in front of me and lit in a tree with Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) about twenty feet from where I stood. Then the bird pointed its bill straight up and with apparent physical effort, produced its peculiar rasping note.

The other records of this bird's occurrence in this state are as follows:—

One in collection of F. Frey of Sandusky; six seen passing over Oberlin October 9, 1896 and one reported from McConnellsville (Jones, Birds of Ohio, 1903). A pair south of Groveport, summer of 1873 (J. M. Wheaton, Birds of Ohio, 1882). One in flock of Red-winged Blackbirds, February 26, 1925 (E. S. Thomas, Wilson Bulletin, 1926, p. 118).—EMORY SAWYER, 18186 Clifton Road, Lakewood, Ohio.

Color of the Iris of the Purple Grackle.—The young Purple Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula quiscula*) has the iris brown, the adult, pale lemon color or almost white. The adolescent bird shows regular gradations from dark to light, depending upon the age of the bird. The sexes are alike in their irid coloration. Emotion or other factors besides age have nothing whatever to do with the color of the iris. An adult bird in the sunlight will appear to have a whiter eye than one in a shadow because bright lights contract the black pupil and thereby the iris becomes more broad and noticeable. The same thing occurs when the bird accommodates its vision, by decreasing the size of the pupil to look at near objects. The brown coloration of the young iris is due to a deposit of brown pigment in front of the lemon-white ground color of the iris, having the same arrangement as the brown coloration of the human eye. In the Grackle this pigment is in exceedingly fine dots, visible only with a microscope. It is not entirely evenly distributed, there being less abundance in the middle concentric third of the iris. As the bird becomes older, the pigment in this area is absorbed, leaving the middle third of the iris pale lemon color and the pupillary and peripheral thirds still dark brown. Two parallel concentric reddish brown lines become visible in the center of this whitish area (shown in Grackles banded A 361365, A 361367 and A 361369) showing the pigment granules being collected within the lymphatic channels, to be carried away to the nasal area of the ciliary body. The brown pigment becomes more and more absorbed, the outer and inner brown bands of the iris become smaller as the bird grows older; in later stages only large masses or dots of pigment remain, the final disappearance being in the nasal areas of the iris. The bird when almost of full growth will show a narrow band of brown lastly at the extreme edge of the iris at the pupil, which appears quite thin. The fully developed Grackle has a completely pale