

**Bronzed Grackles Feeding on Emerald Shiners.**—It has but recently come to my attention that records of the capture of fish by Bronzed Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula versicolor*) have been published by Townsend (Auk, 36: 627, 1919), Cahalane (Auk, 61: 296, 1944), and Hamilton (Auk, 68: 217, 1951). These records involved the capture of sticklebacks, yellow perch, and alewives, respectively. It therefore seems appropriate to record the capture by Bronzed Grackles of another kind of fish, on the basis of observations that have lain dormant in my field notes for a number of years.

On June 18, 1944, at Niagara Falls, Ontario, opposite the American falls, thousands of slender fish approximately three inches in length formed dense shoals near the surface of the clear water. An occasional dead or dying fish, its white belly turned upward, floated conspicuously at the surface. The shoals were concentrated chiefly below a rocky point and in an eddy at the boat landing. Several Bronzed Grackles walked about on numerous small bits of driftwood floating in the eddy. As I watched, a grackle seized one of the slender fish and flew off, the bright silver body of the fish hanging from the bird's beak.

On several occasions during the next three days, I examined these shoals, and observed that they consisted of fish of a single species. Using a small unbaited hook, I "snagged" 18 specimens (four of which are now deposited in the California Academy of Sciences, under Catalog No. 18611), and identified them as the River Emerald Shiner (*Notropis atherinoides atherinoides* Rafinesque).

During the afternoon of the fifth day, using six-power binoculars, I watched the grackles foraging about the driftwood, and on six occasions saw one carry away a fish that appeared to be an Emerald Shiner.

The diagnostic characters of this shiner have been treated by Hubbs and Lagler (Bull. Cranbrook Inst. Sci., 26: 59, 1947).—W. I. FOLLETT, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.*

**A Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) Feeding on Live Minnows.**—Fish have been recorded as food of Bronzed Grackles (Bendire, C. E. "Life Histories of North American Birds," Washington, 1895; Townsend, Auk, 36: 627, 1919; Cahalane, Auk, 61: 296, 1944), but little information is available on the actual feeding behavior involved in acquiring fish. Hamilton (Auk, 68: 213-217, 1951) found that fish, primarily alewives (*Pomolobus pseudoharengus*), occurred in 70.8 per cent of 130 nestlings' stomachs and comprised 6.6 per cent of the total bulk. These alewives were dead ones which the adult birds had picked-up along the shore of Cayuga Lake, New York. Follett (Auk, 74: 263, 1957) observed Bronzed Grackles feeding on the River Emerald Shiner, a fish closely related to the species recorded in this paper.

On July 5, 1956, while the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service research vessel *Cisco* was docked at Harbor Beach, Michigan, we observed a female Bronzed Grackle taking minnows, probably lake emerald shiners (*Notropis atherinoides acutus*), from the water. A total of seven minnows were taken in a one and one-half hour period. One of the minnows was seen wriggling in the bird's beak, and there seems little doubt that the other minnows were alive also, since no dead ones could be seen floating on the surface. Although there were several grackles in the vicinity, apparently only one was catching minnows since all the fish were captured by a female and taken to the same tree about one-quarter-mile distant. It is probable that these minnows were being fed to nestlings, because we saw none of them eaten by the adult. Further evidence that the fish were being fed to young is that on one occasion, after capturing a minnow, the grackle flew to the dock and rearranged the fish in its beak, then flew out over the water and caught another one.