

flying away. On at least two occasions the young retaliated after alighting on our roof, and finally succeeded in driving the old birds away.

At the age of about four or five weeks they became more active, following Mrs. Very about the place, and on several occasions across the adjacent field, a distance of some four or five hundred yards. One of the young manifested a pronounced tendency to associate with humans in preference to its kind. It had a habit of coming to our piazza where the family was gathered and appeared to enjoy pulling at the ladies' skirts, even pulling out shoe-lacings and running off with a ball of yarn. It could recognize Mrs. Very's voice and would come into the cottage if a door was inadvertently left ajar. One afternoon when Mrs. Very had gone down to the store, it heard her talking to the storekeeper and it flew across the intervening pond, lit at their feet, and followed her on foot all the way back to the cottage, a distance of at least five hundred yards.

During the last few weeks of the season we saw less and less of the birds, until finally only one came to visit us, coming sometimes two or three times a day and then perhaps not appearing for several days. One afternoon in late August, when I had not seen this bird for several days, I noticed a young gull flying quite near the boat-wharf where I was, and, thinking that it might be our pet, I began calling it by a name which we had given it. Much to my surprise it recognized me, and after circling around a few times it settled down on the end of the pier and allowed me to pick it up. I had previously taught the bird to stand on my hand and it stood for some little time on my shoulder and hand, finally leaving to join the other gulls out on the water. I later discovered that on the previous day (August 28, 1936) it had lighted on the beach at Brace Cove, East Gloucester, and approached some bathers there, one of whom picked the bird up and noted the number of its band. The incident was reported to the United States Biological Survey by Mr. Robert S. Brookings, of 722 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C., who summers at East Gloucester. On another occasion it lighted near a cottage adjoining ours at Baker's Island and sat on Mrs. Very's arm while she walked with it to our own house.

On the day we were closing our house for the season it had not visited us for eleven days, but at about eleven o'clock it suddenly appeared, remaining with us until well along in the afternoon, far longer than at any previous time. Apparently deeply interested in the work of putting on the shutters and securing the windows, it sat on the piazza roof and watched me bring up shutters and fasten them on, never leaving the roof until I came down for lunch, when it flew down and ate some food which was brought to it.—NATHANIEL T. VERY, 1 Hamilton Street, Salem, Massachusetts.

**Trap Behavior of Purple Grackles.**—In checking over my banding records of Purple Grackles, (*Quiscalus q. quiscula*), banded at Huntington, Long Island, New York, I find a striking similarity in the repeat records to those banded by Horace McCann at Paoli, Pennsylvania. (See *Bird-Banding* for October, 1931, p. 174.)

In this paper Mr. McCann gives the repeat records of 305 grackles. Of this number, banded over a period of four years, only five repeated once. "Day-after-banding" repeats are conspicuous. A sixth bird developed the "trap habit," repeating nineteen times in ten days and entering his traps six times in one day.

Of the 312 grackles banded at my own station in a period of six years, only two birds repeated once, one repeating the day after banding and one twenty-three days later. A third bird developed the "trap habit" and repeated forty-one times in twelve days. On one day this bird was taken out of our traps eight times.

From the above comparison it would appear that with this usual trap-shy species the "trap habit" characteristic appears in one out of about three hundred of these birds.

Mr. McCann in the issue of *Bird-Banding* of July, 1931 (page 130), writes that he has banded only one partial albino grackle among the 305 trapped.

I also have found only one albino among 312 trapped. While these facts may possibly be only a coincidence, they so closely describe the same experiences at two separate banding stations close to the Atlantic seaboard as to appear worthy of publication.—GEOFFREY GILL.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) in Cold Weather.**—Forbush in his "Birds of Massachusetts," Volume II, page 322, in referring to this bird makes the following statement: "With the first frosts of autumn hummers begin to leave us. They can stand but little cold, and now and then in late September one is picked up chilled and apparently dying."

The following observations with Hummingbirds in this connection made in the Laurentian Mountains of Canada during the last two weeks of May, 1936, are of interest. At this time the spring migration in these mountains was well under way, and warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and other species were moving to their breeding grounds in numbers. Between May 20th and June 2d several Hummingbirds were seen that had survived severe weather conditions.

On May 20th the temperature in the early morning was 22 degrees Fahrenheit above zero after a snowfall during the night of six inches. This snow did not completely melt until late in the afternoon. The temperature the following night was 28 degrees above zero. Early on the following morning the temperature was again 22 degrees. Ice formed in water-pails and a cold wind blew all day. The temperature was 28 degrees at night and the mercury did not rise above 40 degrees all day.

May 22d. At midnight the thermometer registered 12 degrees above zero. During the night ice formed, and a heavy frost covered the ground.

May 23d.	Temperature	30 degrees	at sunrise.	
May 26th.	"	25	"	"
May 29th.	"	32	"	"
May 30th.	"	38	"	"
June 1st	"	24	"	"

(snow-squalls all day)

During the morning of May 20th the ground and trees were covered with six inches of heavy, wet snow. I spent several hours paddling along the lake-shore on which our camp was located, observing the Hummingbirds and warblers that came there to feed. Myrtle and Parula Warblers were abundant with occasional Redstarts, Canada, Magnolia, and Wilson's Warblers and a number of Chebecs. All these appeared sluggish with the cold, and the Hummingbirds fluttered about on the underside of the snow-covered leaves, which were about half-developed, apparently capturing minute insects (probably aphids), on which they fed, occasionally dropping to the logs that floated along the shore to secure something so small that I could not determine what it was they were eating.

The warblers and flycatchers hopped along on the prostrate logs and appeared to capture the same kind of food as the Hummingbirds. All the birds permitted so close an approach that I could not use field-glasses during these observations. The last day of my stay the Hummingbirds were observed in their usual feeding places and apparently survived the cold weather unharmed.—CHARLES B. FLOYD, Auburndale, Mass.

**An Unusual Concentration of Blue Jays.**—As evidence that the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta c. cristata*) is truly a migratory species, Dr. Dayton Stoner cites a record in the October *Bird-Banding* (Vol. 7, No. 4, pages 170-171, 1936) of a bird banded in Iowa that was subsequently collected in Arkansas. He also refers to five similar records published in Dr. Roberts's "Birds of Minnesota." More examples could have been cited from Lincoln's summary of bird migration (U. S. Dept. Agr., Circular 363, page 62, 1935).

Normally, Blue Jays are found singly or in small numbers. Their appearance in a large flock undoubtedly indicates mass movement over a considerable territory. Such evidence was recently noted on a Christmas bird census in the area