Color of Iris in Common Grackle.—On May 2, 1952, there was trapped and banded (#583-71627) in Arlington, Virginia, an adult female Common Grackle *(Quiscalus quiscula)*. The color of the iris was unusual for an adult bird. Dr. Alexander Wetmore identified the color of the iris as pallid Neutral gray (Ridgway), with a hint of yellow in the right eye. In Bent's Life Histories of Blackbirds, etc., Museum Bulletin 211, page 379, it is stated: "'The young Purple [Common] Grackle have brown irides, which by the absorption of the pigment, change to gray and lemon, ivory or white.'—As the iris of the adult is pale lemon color, or almost white, it appears that the brown iris is confined to the youngest birds and that the gray iris marks a transition stage of adolescence." Dr. Wetmore stated that the color of the iris of this bird was a partial retention of the juvenile condition.—Arthur H. Fast, 4924 Rock Spring Road, Arlington 7, Virginia.

RECENT LITERATURE
BANDING

(See also numbers 17, 18, 31, 75.)

1. The New French Organization for Migration Research. (La Nouvelle Organisation Francaise de Recherches sur les Migrations.) R.-D. Etchécopar. 1957 (?). *Bulletin du Centre de Recherches sur les Migrations des Mammifères et des Oiseaux*, **9** (1954-1955): 1-94. In 1954 French banding was centralized in the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 55 rue de Buffon, Paris (V^e), under the direction of the Research Center for Mammal and Bird Migration (C.R.M.M.O.). Its Director describes here its facilities, its methods of recording and reporting banding data, its projects, and special programs. The latter include studies of migration routes in the western Mediterranean, migrations of pigeons and doves, and of the development of French heronries.

The last half of the report gives complete raw data for the recoveries reported in 1954 and 1955, a splendid 45-page list representing 95 species, and uncluttered by returns or recoveries of short time and distance, which are summarized briefly for each species. One cannot help being impressed by the high rate of recovery achieved by this, as well as other European programs, in comparison to our own. The large numbers of small passerines recovered, as high as 2 per cent in some species, of course reflect the lamentable hunting and trapping of these birds in Europe for sport and food. But when we see 10 per cent recovery of doves and of herons, 30 per cent and greater in waterfowl, we are forced to the conclusion that at least two, perhaps three times more Europeans than Americans who kill or find banded birds report them. I wonder why?—O. L. Austin, Jr.

2. The Australian Bird-Banding Scheme. R. Carrick. 1956. *Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization* (hereafter abbreviated to *C.S.I.R.O.), Wildlife Research*, **1**(1): 26-30. "A national bird-banding scheme was launched in 1953 by the Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., with headquarters at Canberra. It aims to gather data on migration and other aspects of bird biology for economic purposes and fauna conservation as well as for their intrinsic scientific value. A brief history is given of bird-banding schemes abroad and of previous work in Australia. . . . Most of the independent projects [in Australia] have merged with the national scheme."—O. L. Austin, Jr.

3. First Annual Report of the Australian Bird-Banding Scheme, October 1953 to June 1955. R. Carrick and Noel Turnbull. 1956. *C.S.I.R.O. Wildlife Research*, **1**(1): 31-39. The Australians banded 6073 birds of 49 species in this period, from which 85 recoveries in 15 species were reported. Wisely "only those recoveries which extend or usefully confirm existing knowledge of the species are reported in full," in this case 19 from 7 species, of which the most interesting are 7 of the wide-ranging circumpolar Giant Petrel *(Macronectes)*. —O. L. Austin, Jr.

4. Second Annual Report of the Australian Bird-Banding Scheme, July 1955 to June 1956. R. Carrick and Noel Turnbull. 1956. *C.S.I.R.O. Wildlife Research*, **1**(2): 114-130. In this period the Australians banded 12,500 birds of 107 species and received 708 "recoveries" of 39 species. The table of bandings and recoveries by species shows the latter to be abnormally high (22