A new subspecies of the Boat-tailed Grackle from México.—In November 1963 while collecting in northern Yucatán with Kenneth C. Parkes, the authors noted that the Boat-tailed Grackles (*Cassidix mexicanus*) appeared small compared with the well-known nominate form in Veracruz. Specimens collected then were undergoing heavy molt and diagnostic measurements could not be made. However, series collected by us on a subsequent trip in January and February 1965 proved the population nesting on the Yucatán Peninsula to be a distinct subspecies which may be known as

Cassidix mexicanus loweryi new subspecies.

Type.—Adult female, No. CU 30,456. Louis Agassiz Fuertes Collection, Cornell University; Chicxulub Puerto, Yucatán, collected 25 January 1965 by Robert W. Dickerman. Original field number: 12,595. Skull ossified, little fat, no molt. Weight 127.0 gms.

Paratypes.—Nine females and one adult male collected in the Progreso, Yucatán vicinity, November 1963 and January and February 1965 bearing field numbers: (females) RWD 11,626; 11,627; 11,638 CU 30,476; ARP 6916; 6917; 6918; 8476 and KCP 2225; (male) RWD 11,639.

Diagnosis.—Adult and immature females are most similar to *Cassidix mexicanus monsoni* Phillips, and *C. m. prosopidicola* Lowery. However, dorsally *loweryi* in fresh plumage is darker brown on the crown and nape, this color extending as edgings over the entire dorsum as in *monsoni*, although to a lesser extent. *Prosopidicola*, in contrast, presents a brown-headed, somewhat more iridescent-backed appearance more similar to female *mexicanus*. All three subspecies are much paler than *mexicanus*. Ventrally, female *loweryi*, like *prosopidicola* and *monsoni*, differ from *mexicanus* in being paler and warmer buffy brown, less grayish; *loweryi* like *prosopidicola* is darker, less buffy than *monsoni*. In turn, *loweryi* is separated from *prosopidicola* in having a darker throat and in general is a richer brown.

Adult male *loweryi* are most similar to those of *prosopidicola* and *mexicanus*, but with the belly duller, less iridescent, and more bluish than in those races. All three Atlantic coastal forms differ strikingly from *monsoni* in lacking the rich purplish color of the back and belly so characteristic of that subspecies.

In size *loweryi* is so much smaller than adjacent *mexicanus* as to be noticeable in the field to those familiar with the nominate form. There is no overlap in measurements of length, extent, wing, or tail between series of adult females of the two forms, and only the extremes of males overlap in these measurements. There is no overlap in weights of males, a better indication of true size difference. *Loweryi* averages smaller than the more closely related *prosopidicola* and *monsoni* (see Table 1 and Fig. 1).

Range.—Essentially coastal, from Isla del Carmen, Campeche along the coast of the Yucatán Peninsula, south on the eastern coast to Turneffe Cay, British Honduras. In the interior of the peninsula, it occurs south at least to Chichén Itzá, and probably ranges through the semiarid zone.

Specimens examined.—Campeche: Isla del Carmen, 1 ♂, 7 ♀; Lerma, 3 ♀. *Yucatán*: Progreso, 3 ♂, 15 ♀; Río Largartos, 1 ♀; Temax, 1 ♂; Chichén Itzá, 2 ♀. *Quintana Roo*: Isla Mujeres, 2 ♀; Cozumel, 1 ♂, 7 ♀. *British Honduras*: Turneffe Cay, 4 ♂, 1 ♀. (No immature males were used in comparisons.)

Discussion.—Series from Isla Mujeres and Isla Cozumel, Quintana Roo, and a series of four adult males from Turneffe Cay, British Honduras are typical *loweryi*. One adult male and six adult and immature females from Isla del Carmen represent the western end of the range of *loweryi*. Three females collected in extreme western Campeche are intermediate towards *mexicanus* both in color and size.

TABLE 1

MEASUREMENTS OF ADULT *CASSIDIX MEXICANUS*
(with number, range, mean, and standard deviation)

Subspecies	Total length	Extent	Wing chord	Tail	Culmen form nostril	Weight
			FEMALES			
prosopidicola	(6) 355–372 (362.1)	(6) 473–484 (477.8)	(12) 142–157 (151.0) 5.0	(12) 145–166 (156.5) 6.4	(12) 23.2–25.8 (24.8) 0.7	(17) 109.0–129.5 (119.3) 5.5
mexicanus	(19) 371–401 (383.7) 9.4	(16) 483–515 (494.6) 10.6	(25) 155–163 (158.0) 2.2	(24) 156–181 (168.4) 6.4	(27) 26.2–30.5 (27.9) 1.0	(18) 124.5–163.1 (141.6) 10.0
loweryi	(11) 337–357 (346.6) 6.4	(9) 436–462 (451.8) 7.5	(16) 142–153 (145.8) 2.7	(13) 136–152 (144.5) 5.1	(22) 23.7–27.3 (25.8) 0.9	(17) 109.0–129.5 (119.3) 5.5
monsoni	(8) 348–375 (359.3)	(6) 444–475 (461.0)	(14) 143–156 (147.4) 3.5	(13) 147–165 (155.8) 6.1	(13) 22.3–26.7 (24.5) 1.2	(7) 106.0–123.7 (115.4)
			MALES			
prosopidicola	(3) 477–490 (482.6)	(3) 590–604 (598.3)	(12) 184–198 (189.9) 5.1	(9) 194–234 (216.2) 13.6	(12) 29.5–32.5 (30.7) 1.0	(6) 216.4–253.7 (236.0)
mexicanus	(14) 467–503 (486.8) 10.6	(11) 600–645 (616.9) 13.4	(20) 188–222 (200.7) 7.4	(20) 207–240 (229.0) 9.7	(20) 31.6–38.0 (34.6) 1.4	(14) 238.8–317.0 (264.6) 23.5
loweryi	(2) 428&459	(2) 565&580	(9) 180–192 (184.6) 3.8	(8) 187–216 (200.5) 9.8	(9) 30.1–34.8 (31.7) 1.7	(6) 188.5–214.3 (202.4)
monsoni	(2) 454&473	(1) 581	(19) 175–196 (187.0) 5.9	(19) 195–235 (216.2) 10.4	(17) 29.1–34.4 (31.0) 1.5	(11) 187.0–222.0 (203.2) 9.9

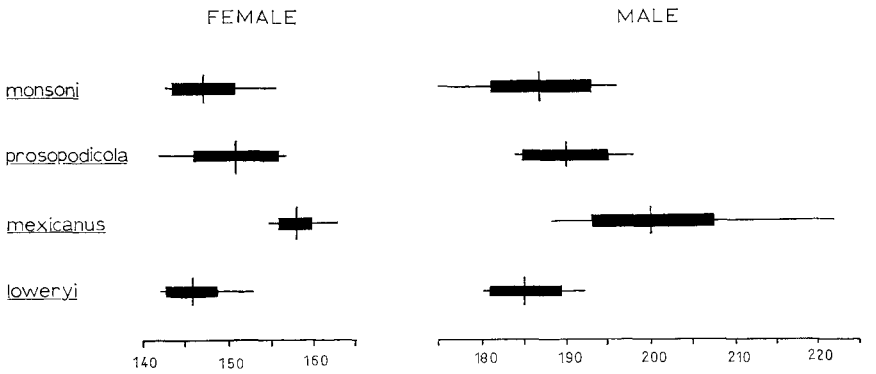

FIG. 1. Statistical analysis of wing chord in mm for adult *Cassidix mexicanus*, with range, mean, and one standard deviation on either side of the mean.

The recognition of this dramatically smaller and paler form on the Yucatán Peninsula at this late date is inexplicable. *Loweryi*, like the similar *prosopidicola* and *monsoni*, inhabits a semiarid zone but is separated from those forms by *mexicanus*, a large dark form of the humid areas of Veracruz and adjacent states. It is interesting to note that, like *monsoni* and *nelsoni* (Phillips, 1950. *Condor*, 52:78–81), *mexicanus* appears to be a vigorous form, extending its range where areas are open to it (e.g., the Valley of Mexico was recently colonized by this form). One wonders what might have been the history of these arid- and humid-adapted populations within the recent past, in the postglacial period, and more especially in the warm, dry Hypsithermal.

It is a pleasure to dedicate this subspecies to George H. Lowery, Jr., in recognition of his contribution to our knowledge of *Cassidix*, and his interest in Mexican ornithology.—ROBERT W. DICKERMAN, *Department of Microbiology, Cornell University Medical College, New York 21, New York,* AND ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, *Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónomo de México, Mexico City,* *11 December 1965 (Originally received 25 May 1965).*