Ridgway Collection

and Sept. (1)

Aug. 28. 1915.
828 Judson Ave.
Evanston
Ill.

Dear Ridgeway

I venture to trouble you with a letter as I know no one who could tell me what I wish, better than you. Since I have been laid up, these last few years, I have employed myself, in leisure times, in watching the birds that come around my lot. Opportunities have not been as good the past three or four years because it has been built up so much around here. Before that I had identified nearly 60 species and seen many I didn't venture to name. What I wanted especially to ask

about however was a grackle with a shorter tail and a white iris which I observed, a number of consecutive days, with the other grackles on the lawn. I took it at the time to be a sport but it seemed to be perfectly normal in every way and it occurred to me that it might perhaps be some extra limital wanderer from the South. The tail was, at least, I should say, ¾ of an inch shorter than that of the other birds and the white iris was quite conspicuous. I have noticed several other oddities or what seemed to me to be such, in the past ten years but perhaps this is the only one worth asking about. I have read your articles on Bird Lore and take it, you have changed your address but they do not give it to me so I write to the Smithsonian, trusting this letter will find you.

Trusting that you and your family are well and with best regards I am

Yours truly

A. M. Bannister

Dec 13.