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by pop-1.iastate.edu (8.8.5/8.8.5) with ESMTTP id NAA32035
for <oldcoot@pop-1.iastate.edu>; Mon, 7 Jul 1997 13:28:13 -0500 (CDT)
Received: from dedwards.iastate.edu (edwards.psych.iastate.edu [129.186.123.161])
by mailhub.iastate.edu (8.8.5/8.8.5) with SMTP id NAA26856
for <oldcoot@iastate.edu>; Mon, 7 Jul 1997 13:28:12 -0500 (CDT)
Message-Id: <3.0.32.19970707132743.00744190@pop-3.iastate.edu>
X-Sender: dedwards@pop-3.iastate.edu
X-Mailer: Windows Eudora Pro Version 3.0 (32)
Date: Mon, 07 Jul 1997 13:27:44 -0500
To: oldcoot@iastate.edu
From: David C Edwards <dedwards@iastate.edu>
Subject: Rara avis
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

I tried to call at home and the office, but got no answer. Assuming you are off somewhere, I'll make my report the slow way with untalented fingers.

Yesterday, 7/6, I was canoeing Dunbar Slough west of Jefferson with Jeanne and the Bahrnefus's. I am 95 percent certain that there is a BOAT-TAILED Grackle pair there. I have seen hundreds of them in my Florida travels and am pretty confident about the male's tail profile, which is more grackle-like with negative dihedral (Phantom jet fashion). Also the tail is not quite as long as the Great-tails. There were also Great tail Grackle's there and, though not in the same visual scene, the difference appeared marked to me. Unfortunately the male would not stay close enough to get a good view of eye color, though it was quite willing to pose for long periods in a tree. The female, however, with its typical two-tone brown came down close enough to let me see clearly and at length its very dark eyes. I'm not a twitcher nor a masochist, so I will leave it to you and others if you choose to verify and document it. Also at Dunbar were a trio of what Jon and I were convinced were Least Sandpipers working some mud flats.

The location for all this was the Main Dunbar water, the parcel with the boat ramp on the south end. The grackles were primarily at the west extension toward the dam, and seemed to be working both sides of the water. Unfortunately, they are probably out of sight unless worked by boat. The sandpipers were further north on the west bank.

Dave Edwards