

DOCUMENTATION FORM

For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Great Tailed Grackle How many? 2

Location? South Blue Lake in Monona County

Type of Habitat? marshy with several trees flooded

When? date(s) 3/20/94 time: over the noon hour

Who? your name and address: Peter Erzen 401 Taylor Ida Grove
IA 51445

Others with you: none

Others before or after you: ?

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior. Estimated at 100 ft. the birds flew across from west to east. The bird was a grackle in shape and color, the extremely long flowing tail and horizontal posture of perched bird indicated that it was a Great Tailed Grackle.

Similar species; how eliminated: Both sp. of grackle were present for comparison, up to 11 birds were seen in subsequent days, and 5 nests were observed as well.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification?
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. Estimated 100 ft, partly cloudy, Bushnell

over.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Observed once before in Ida County and many times since this first sight in Monona County.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before notes completed? immediately

Who? your name and address: Peter Benzen 401 Taylor Ida Grove IA 51445

Others before or after you? :

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior. Estimated at 100 ft. The birds flew across from west to east. The bird was a grackle in shape and color, the extremely long flowing tail and horizontal posture of perched bird indicated that it was a Great Tailed Grackle.

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Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. (partly cloudy, hazy)