

## KEY DETAILS OF RARE SPECIES

Species: Great-tailed Grackle, Quiscalus mexicanus

Date and Time: 20 June 1993, afternoon

Location: South IPL pond, Pottawattamie County, Iowa (4+ males, 1 female); along Hwy. 2 in Nebraska City bridge area, Fremont County, Iowa (1 male)

Key Details:

Males were huge (at least 15 inches in length), shiny black birds with long, deeply keeled tails. Long, heavy, decurved bills. Bright yellow irides. Observed in cattails at edge of IPL pond in Pottawattamie County where they uttered loud "electronic" squeals and harsh clacking calls. Female was smaller, though still larger than a male Common Grackle (Quiscalus quiscula), and tawny-brown in color. I'm sure they were nesting there. A single fly-by male was seen in Fremont County, fitting the above description for males. I believe Great-tailed Grackles are regular now in both locations.

--Randy Pinkston  
526 Reno Street  
Iowa City, IA 52245-3039  
Ph.(319)351-0592

Species: Great-tailed Grackle

Date and Time: 26 June 1993, afternoon

Location: near Osceola, Clarke County, Iowa

Key Details: An adult male 100+ meters away flying over/along Hwy. 34 between Osceola and I-35. Huge black bird with long keeled tail. Much too large and tail proportionately too long to be a Common Grackle. No calls heard.

--Randy Pinkston