

What species? GREAT TAILED GRACKLE How many? 2 MALESLocation? OTTER CREEK MARSH - TAMA COUNTYType of habitat? CATTAILS IN MARSHWhen? date(s): APRIL 27, 1990 time: ABOUT 3:45 PM FOR 2 MINUTES to _____Who? your name and address: JIM FULLER, 6 LONGVIEW KNOLL, Rte #6, TOWA CITY, IA 52240

others with you: _____

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.

MY FIRST THOUGHT WHEN SEEING THE TWO BIRDS WAS WHY ARE TWO CROWS SITTING IN THE CATTAILS? THEN I REALIZED THEY WERE GRACKLES. THEY WERE QUITE LARGE, MUCH LARGER THAN A COMMON GRACKLE, AN ESTIMATE WAS 18" LENGTH. THE TAIL WAS VERY LONG AND SOMEWHAT CURLED (NOT FLAT). THEY HAD THE TYPICAL GRACKLE GLOSSINESS OF BLACK. I DID REMEMBER TO LOOK AT THE EYE, AND BOTH EXHIBITED A LIGHT EYE. AFTER WATCHING THEM FOR ABOUT 2 MINUTES, THEY FLEW, AND ONE GAVE A CALL WHICH WAS VERY UNLIKE A COMMON GRACKLE, AND WAS A HIGHER PITCHED SORT OF WHISTLE.

Similar species and how eliminated: COMMON GRACKLE IS SMALLER WITH DIFFERENT CALL. BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE MALE HAS DARK EYEDid any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: SWIFT ARDUBON BINOCULARS 8.5X44, LOOKING NE AT 30 YARDS. GOOD LIGHT IN AFTERNOON.Previous experience with species and similar ones: SEEN IN IOWA SEVERAL TIMES, AND ALSO IN SOUTHWEST US ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.References and persons consulted before writing description: NONEHow long before field notes made? 45 MINUTES this form completed? 4 1/2 HOURS

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240