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DETAILS FOR RARE BIRD SIGHTING

SPECIES: Great-Tailed Grackle

SIGHTING #1

LOCATION: West gun club pond, Coralville Reservoir, Johnson County.

DATE: 8 May, 1992 (12:30 PM)

DESCRIPTION: A lone male bird was sitting along the road in a small tree no more than 25 feet away. The coloration was much like a male Common Grackle, but this bird was much larger than a Common Grackle. It had what appeared to be a comparatively larger body, longer tail, and more massive bill. A distinctive feature was a flatness to the top of the head. The eye was yellow.

SIGHTING #2

LOCATION: Marshy area along hiways #92-275 less than a mile west of I-29 in Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie County.

DATE: 13 May, 1992 (1:15 PM)

DESCRIPTION: There were four grackles, a male and three females close to the shoulder of the road, about 50 feet away. The male was as described in sighting #1. The females seemed a little smaller than the male, but still with massive bills. Their coloration was entirely different, however. The upperparts were a dark brown, while the upper breast and throat and side of the face were a warm light brown color. The side of the face was patterned with a dark eyeline and top of head, and light brown superciliary line and all the area below the eyeline. The eye was yellow.

SIGHTING #3

LOCATION: Marshy area near visitor's center, DeSoto NWR, Harrison County.

DATE: 13 May, 1992 (3:45 PM)

DESCRIPTION: There were three male grackles as described in sighting #1.