

Species: GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE

Record No. 512-93-10

Location: FIELDS, HARNEY CO.
Date(s): MAY 15, 1993

Observers	details	slides	prints	tapes
TIM JANZEN	A	B-C-D E-F		

Specimen no. & location _____

Accepted 9-0
verified ✓
Single rept. sighting _____
Multiple rept. sighting _____

Not accepted _____
origin questionable _____
exotic not estab. _____

Records split _____

Records combined _____

Disposition

Secretary's File
Main File A
Slide File B-C-E
Print File _____
Tape File _____

Duplicate File
details A
slides D-F
prints _____
tapes _____

Date observer(s) notified: 3-9-95

Rare Bird Report Form

RARE BIRD REPORT FORM — 1993
Oregon Bird Records Committee — OBRC

OBRC
P.O. Box 10373
Eugene, OR 97440

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

512-93-10A

ACD: 9-7-93

1. YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS

Tim Jansen
12367 SE Ridgecrest Rd
Portland, OR 97236
TELEPHONE 761-8781

DATE RECEIVED BY OBRC SECRETARY

This form is intended as a convenience and a guideline. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. *Attach additional sheets if needed.* Please type, or write legibly. You may find it easiest to use separate sheets of paper keyed to the general guidelines in this form.

2. BIRD IDENTIFICATION. Write in the name of the species you have identified and information on numbers, sex, plumage, and age.

2 adult male
great-tailed grackles

3. DATE(S). Month, day, and year. If there are multiple observations, each date.

May 15, 1993

4. LOCATION. Be specific; describe habitat.

Fields, Oregon, in trees directly behind the cafeteria

5. DETAILS. Include only what was actually observed, not what should have been seen or heard. Stress field marks: bill, eye, wings, tail, legs, shape, proportions, "jizz", etc. Include behavior: feeding, resting, flying, interactions with other species, etc. Describe voice — song, calls, or notes — if heard. If you have made field notes and/or field sketches, include them (or copies of them).

Both birds were almost identical except that one bird had 1-2mm of gray edging to the wing feathers. The 2 birds were coal black in color, being approximately 16-18 inches in length. The tail relative to the total length of the birds made up almost 1/2 of their length. The bills were black with a relatively thick base tapering down to a point, being about 1 inch long and slightly decurved. The birds had pale yellow eyes. The wings extended just to the base of the tail. The legs were dark brown. The tails were held straight relative to the rest of the body. The tails were 7-8 inches long and about 1 1/2 inches wide.

(continued)

Describe your reasons for your identification: your familiarity with the species, field guides used, similar species that were eliminated, references that were consulted, etc.

I am quite familiar with great-tailed grackles having lived in Scottsdale, AZ for 3 years where they were commonly seen, even in my back yard. Field guides used included The Audubon Society's Master Guide to Birding and the National Geographic Soc. Field Guide to the Birds of N. America. Crows are eliminated by the fact that all species have short tails, Ravens are larger and bulkier. Common grackles are smaller with relatively shorter tails. The call of these birds was typical of great-tailed grackles and not common grackles. (cont)

Describe the circumstances of the observation: light conditions, position of the sun, distance to the bird, duration of observation, equipment used, time of day, time of tide, etc.

One bird was observed between 8:45 and 9 AM from approximately 20 feet away. The 2 birds were then observed together between 10:30 and 11 AM in the same area in the trees behind the cafeteria from approximately 20 feet away. The birds were viewed with both Zeiss 10x40 binoculars and a Bushnell Spacemaster II 15-45X spotting scope.

Add the names (and addresses and phone numbers if known) of other observers who may have identified the bird.

Greg Boyce, 4942 SW Barber Blvd Apt #8, Portland, OR 97201
and Dee White 227-2581 ph. 248-9704

Other observers in my party included Dr. Steven Davis
3617 NE 133rd, Portland OR 97230, Dr. Daniel and Marilyn Patchin
4215 SE Regner Rd, Gresham, OR 97080 and Dr. Rick Westermeyer, 17131 SE
Royer Rd, Clackamas, OR 97015

6. PHOTOS, RECORDINGS. State whether photos were taken or video or sound recordings were made. OBRC will duplicate and return original slides and tapes promptly. Donations of slide duplicates (OBRC prefers a double set) and copies of recordings may be considered a tax-deductible expense!

Photos were taken

7. SIGNATURE, DATE. Sign this form, and date it for when it was filled out.

Timothy P Janzen

July 2, 1993

5. Details. (continued) The tails had slightly rounded tips and were fanned out when one of the birds flew. Areas of darker black barring could be seen on the tail feathers spaced about $\frac{1}{2}$ in apart. The heads of the birds had flat crowns.

Voice: The 1st bird seen earlier in the morning was the most vocal. The bird made an assortment of calls especially a series of 3 "toots". It also made a "cha-reck" call and several other types of hoots. When the 2 birds were seen together later in the day they were much less vocal.

Behavior: Most of the time the birds were observed perched and resting about 15 ft. up in the trees. When the birds were together they stayed within 2-3 feet of each other but otherwise didn't interact much. Only one of the birds was seen flying and flew from behind the cafeteria across the highway to the woods with its tail fanned out behind it.

Elimination of other species: (continued from form), Boat-tailed grackles are quite similar to great-tailed grackles but have different vocalizations. They usually don't have pale yellow eyes such as the 2 birds I saw had. Boat-tailed grackles have more rounded crowns. All North American blackbirds are much smaller than the 2 birds seen.

Great-tailed Grackle 512-93-10

