

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Great-tailed grackle

Scientific Name: *Quiscalus mexicanus*Date: April 29, 1986 Time: ^{about} 6:30-7:00 am

Length of time observed: about 10 min.

Number: 10 Age: adult

Sex: 3-4 males, 6-7 females (1 bird not clearly seen)

Location: 1 mi. n. of Moab, Ut.

Latilong:

Elevation (if known):

Distance to bird: 30ft.

Light conditions: excellent morning light,
~~fair~~ ~~clear~~

Optical equipment: 7X35 binoculars

Weather: Clear, warm

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Male - magpie-sized, black bird with keel-shaped tail that appears nearly as long as the bird's body. Yellowish eye.

Female - 25% smaller, dark brown, long tailed - looks like a brown common grackle - breast, throat lighter brown

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

Silent

Behavior: Flock flushed from edge of marsh, flew to electrical lines and poles and ~~then~~ then on to trees.

Habitat: Edge of marsh, pasture,

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

Common grackle much smaller, females ~~black~~ dull black rather than brown

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I have observed great-tailed grackles several times in the San Luis valley and each of the past three years near Clifton, Co.
Common grackles nest in my neighborhood.
I know both birds well.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Birds of North America, Scott et al. for female, subspecies is probably the eastern, longer-tailed, darker bird, rather than the western Arizona bird as might be expected. Perhaps the route into this area is via the San Juan/Dolores rather than the Colorado river.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting _____ notes made later _____ from memory

Observer: Richard Levad

Signature:

Address: 2924 Renda Lee Rd
Grand Junction, Co 81503

Richard Levad

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

None

Date prepared: May 17, 1986

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120