

UTAH FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SIGNIFICANT SIGHTING RECORD DOCUMENTATION

1982-28 ufo

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE FOR U.F.O. RECORDS AND DOCUMENTATION CODES ONLY.

Along _____ Reporter _____ Sci Name _____
 at _____ Record type _____ Serial No. 1982-036
 Date/time _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name Great-tailed Grackle
 Scientific Name Quiscalus mexicanus
 Sight date 6-16-82 time 1215 duration 15 minutes
 Distance from bird 50 to 200 ft
 Light conditions good
 Optical equip. 7x35 binocs
 Photo. equip. _____
 Number of this species seen 2
 Notes made at time of sighting Date this report was prepared.
 Notes made later from memory
 Photo available Photo enclosed June 20, 1982

Weather at time of this observation.

Clear, 85°, no wind.

Prior weather & number of days since change

similar weather for 3-4 days prior.

Locality

Newcastle Reservoir, Iron Co., at confluence of Little Pinto Creek.

Male Adult Age unk. Basic Plumage Light Phase
 Female Subadult ♀ or Imm Breeding Dark Phase
 Sex Unk. Juv/Imm _____ year bird Eclipse Molting

Description of bird. Size, Colors, all field marks OBSERVED - Unique features of this bird, if any.

Birds were about 18" long with glossy black plumage and an 8" tail. Tail was V shaped with the posterior end wider than the anterior. Eye was yellow. Bill was about 1" long, narrow, & pointed, and slightly decurved. Bill, feet, and legs were black.

<p>Field marks which were not seen. Why not?</p> <p>None.</p>	<p>Variations from expected field marks.</p> <p>None</p>
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List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Common Grackle is much smaller (12") with a ~~shorter~~ shorter tail. Voice is different - does not have the loud whistle and "creek" call.

Behavior of this bird. Include names of other birds with this one and any interaction.

Birds were observed sitting in 6-8' tall willows along the edge of the reservoir. Both would occasionally display by giving a loud "cree" call and fluff up the feathers on the body.

Habitat this location and near by or adjacent habitat if significant.

6-8' tall willows along the edge of the reservoir. Willows extended into the water for about 100 feet

Describe birds song or sounds.

A loud whistle was the most common call. Also a "cree" call.

Names of other observers, A/C+phone#

none

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

I am very familiar with all North American blackbirds. This sighting represents a range extension of about 50 miles north.

Print name & mailing address below.

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Signature: Steven P. Hedges