



IOS IORC <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

IORC Documentation Submission

1 message

IORC Web Submission <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

Sun, May 6, 2018 at 10:50 PM

Reply-To: iorcommittee@gmail.com

To: iorcommittee@gmail.com

1) This form submitted as supporting documentation of (check all that apply):	Unusual species Christmas Bird Count Record
If other, please describe:	
2) Species:	Great-Tailed Grackle
3) Number of birds:	1
4) Age/Sex/Plumage:	Adult/Male
5) Date:	5/5/18
6) Location (include county):	Southwest Essex township. Essex, Illinois
7) Observers:	3
8) Your name:	Bronson Ratcliff
Street Address	██████████
Street Address Line 2	
City	██████████
State / Province / Region	██████
Postal / Zip Code	██████
Country	██████████
10) Your e-mail address:	██████████
11) Others agreeing with the identification:	William Weiss, Gary Ratcliff
12) Observers NOT agreeing with the identification:	None.
13) Description of bird (size, shape, proportions, details of both color and pattern on head, back, chin, throat, breast, flanks, wings, undertail, and tail, etc.; coloration of soft parts: bill, legs, and feet) include only details actually seen in the field :	Bird was a dark and shiny color with blueish tint too it. Had a light colored eye that I could see through the scope and also had a pretty large and droopy bill. Not straight that would suggest a Boat Tailed. And the bird was significantly larger than the surrounding Common Grackles. (Sorry I couldn't get any next to the bird in photo). Last, but not least the tail was enormous. I've seen Great-Tailed Grackle before in the Branson, Missouri Area, but dang was it a long and diamond shape tail. (Yes, it was). Longer tail and larger droopy bill suggest Great-Tailed Grackle without even getting into the range and likelihood of either of the species. Hope this helps you all out! Thanks and good birding!
14) Description of behavior:	Well the bird didn't do a whole lot in the time of me watching, but it did stick around and seem very comfortable while Gary, William and I observed it. It did fly off and perform a circle figure then land back in the same spot though.

15) Description of vocalizations:	Never heard the bird. It was at a distance at which I could not hear. (Across a open shrub land and across small quarry pond). Essex Area is littered with these small estuaries.
16) Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s):	Cattails, Phragmites (Common Reed), freshwater ponds, coal mining mounds developed from years of coal mining and piling of sediment.
17) Optical equipment used for observation (type, power):	Bushnell Elite Spotting Scope. 80mm, 20-60x eyepiece. Bushnell elite 10x42 binocs.
18) Distance/how measured?	175 yards. Educated guess from shooting at rifle ranges.
19) Time of observation:	12:09 pm
20) Total time of observation:	4 minutes
21) Weather conditions:	Clear sky, sunny and winds at 9mph out of southwest.
22) Previous experience with this species and similar species:	Experienced this species in Branson, Missouri area and in Oklahoma before. Experienced Boat-Tailed Grackle in Orlando, Florida and Everglades National Park.
23) Please eliminate other similar species and/or hybrids:	Common Grackle is eliminated due to head size to the body size and bill size to the head size comparison. Bill shape as well as size eliminates Boat-Tail. Tail length eliminates both. Range and probability pretty much eliminates Boat-Tail if we even want to start factoring that in.
24) Were photos obtained?	Yes
25) If so, by whom?	Myself
26) Books and illustrations consulted and advice received. How did these influence this description?:	Crossley ID guide was referenced. Rest was from memory and memory of reported species in past.
27) How long after the observation were field notes recorded?	Mental notes then field notes after 10 minutes.
28) How long after the observation was this form completed?	34 1/2 hours give or take.
29) Additional remarks (URLs can be entered here):	https://www.flickr.com/photos/12638874@N02/