

Great-tailed Grackle (1)

2019-092

Date: 6 December 2019

Location: Port Rowan, *Norfolk*

Coordinates: 42.623949, -80.462923

Documentation:

6 December 2019

Stuart A. Mackenzie

eBird report, photos (1)

eBird reports (1) compiled by Dan Riley

Notes:

- Exact location was the Port Rowan Restored Wetland, Port Rowan.

Status: Not Accepted (second round)

Round One: Recirculate (4-3-0)

Round Two: Not Accepted (1-6-0)

Great-tailed Grackle (1)**2019-092****Round One:** Recirculate (4-3-0)

Member	Num/age/sex	Vote	Voting date	Comments
A. Guercio	1/?/?/?	Y		Certainly not identifiable by the photo, but description of the bird and vocalization, and pattern of species vagrancy (vs Boat-tailed) check out.
B. Mann	1/?/basic/?	Y	02 February 2020	Not the greatest photo, but description is adequate from a knowledgeable birder.
B. Charlton	1/?/?/?	N-ID	25 February 2020	Photo poor. Original comments from observer on LPBO What's App say: "Female. I'm not sure I'm going to be able to differentiate from a boatie." Would like to hear comments/opinions from other committee members.
D. Sutherland		Y	2020-02-03	? Tentatively accept. It's hard to judge the relative size of the grackle in the photo, but it doesn't appear overly big; however, the remainder of the description is certainly supportive of GTGR. BTGR would be unexpected, while there is an established southwest-to-northeast pattern of vagrancy in GTGR.
K. Burrell	1/first/basic/male	Y	15 February 2020	Good description and supporting photo.
R. Martin	1/?/?/female	N-ID		acceptable as a Boat-tailed/Great-tailed. I can't find any sources indicating how to separate these two species by call, Sibley seems to imply that the differences are pretty subtle. BNA indicates that the "clack" call is only given by males, but this may not be the same call Stu heard. Listening to calls online I'm not convinced these are easily separable. But prepared to be convinced otherwise.
W. Lamond	1/?/?/?	N-ID	01 February 2020	Not convinced by photo. Another photo can sometimes give a totally different impression than the first. Someone else quite knowledgeable about this species thought the tail did look substantive enough for Great-tailed Grackle. I have heard a lot of strange sounding grackles over the years. One this fall in fact.

Great-tailed Grackle (1)**2019-092****Round Two:** Not Accepted (1-6-0)

Member	Num/age/sex	Vote	Voting date	Comments
A. Guercio	1/?/?/?	N-ID		
B. Mann	1/?/alternate/?	N-ID	13 March 2020	Photo cannot be used to distinguish between this and Boat-tailed. A fairly good description is given, but is just not convincing enough. Grackles can certainly make all kinds of sounds.
B. Charlton	1/?/?/?	N-ID	22 March 2020	Same as previously stated.
D. Sutherland		Y	2020-03-11	I will stay with tentatively acceptance. I think the report and photos, to some extent, support the identification. The burden of proof would be much greater if the report was of a BTGR for which there is no pattern of vagrancy, unlike GTGR.
K. Burrell	1/?/?/?	N-ID	06 March 2020	Voting yes to Great-tailed/Boat-tailed Grackle. Sent photo out to Peter Burke: "The grackle is tough. Showing a tail keel is not a female feature for GTGR/BTGR - their tail is pretty flat. So a young male is likely the case here. The claim of a 'distinctive' call note that separates GTGR from BTGR is not my take on that. Especially if you don't live near them and hear either one regularly. I mean, I often have to think about Downy vs. Hairy over the years and I'm constantly hearing them. So to base this on the call is a bit ambitious."
R. Martin	1/?/?/?	N-ID		
W. Lamond	1/?/?/?	N-ID	13 March 2020	too much uncertainty - not conclusively gtgr