

## Great-tailed Grackle

*Quiscalus mexicanus*

### hypothetical, unassisted occurrence questionable

This species is resident to N and S America, from the s. U.S. to nw. Peru (AOU 1998). Populations expanded greatly during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and vagrants have been recorded N to s. Canada, but it is not considered a highly migratory species. On O'ahu at least two long-staying Great-tailed Grackles were observed, a female on the Waipi'o Peninsula, Pearl Harbor, 26 May 1980-14 Jan 1995 (*E* 44:98, 47:95, 48:114; [HRBP](#) 0201, 0236-0237, 0552-0553, 0958-0959) and a male along the waterfront of downtown Honolulu, most frequently at Ala Moana Beach Park and on Sand I., 26 May 1988-12 Jun 1995 (*E* 48:78; [HRBP](#) 0834-0837, 0895). The female was missed for long periods (notably a three-year stretch in 1988-1991) promoting speculation that two birds were involved, and two males were reported for a period in about 1992 by workers on Sand I who regularly fed bread to the original male grackle, but we consider only two individuals as substantiated to species. The grackles were small and the female had pale underparts, consistent with *Q.m. nelsoni* of s. California and adjoining areas. Given the relative non-migratory habits of this species and the proximity of records to container traffic we consider the evidence overwhelming that they were either ship-assisted in their passage to Hawaii and could not have reached the islands on their own accord, or were escapes from the Honolulu Zoo (*cf.* Pratt et al. 1987). Pyle (1983-2002) included it as a vagrant on the main Hawaiian Checklist and this opinion was followed by the AOU (1998).

### [Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

### [Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2009. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 1 (31 December 2009) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>