

Boat-tailed Grackle at Shinnecock, Long Island: A young Boat-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus major*) was seen being fed by an adult female on 3 July on Dune Road near the Ponquogue Bridge, Shinnecock Bay. Since the young bird was already flying, it is not absolutely certain that the species bred in the area. However, this area is a considerable distance northeast of the nearest known breeding grounds in Nassau County, and there is ample evidence that the species is in the process of colonizing Shinnecock Bay. A single male was seen nearby area in May by Hugh McGuinness in almost the same location. A small flock of at least nine female or immature plumaged birds was active by the bridge all summer. This flock seemed to consist entirely of molting juveniles, with noticeably larger males showing areas of flat black plumage mixed with the brown by the middle of September. Young males are brown before they assume the black first Basic plumage shown in the field guides and incorrectly labeled "juvenile". The Prebasic molt was complete by the end of September and an adult female as well as juveniles of both sexes were still present in the area well into October. The appearance of this flock and the predominance of young birds appears to be typical of the pattern of the range expansion northward shown by this species in other areas.

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