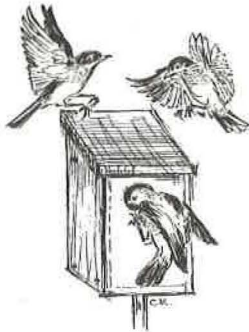


I'd like to thank you for your interest in reporting these birds and would be pleased to hear from you further if they remain later this winter. You might be alert for red bands as well. They were hatched in 1967. There may be another color to liven up your feeder next winter!

133 Broome Ave., Atlantic Beach, N.Y. 11509



TWO GRACKLES Banded AND RETURNING SIMULTANEOUSLY

By Harold E. Burt

Two common Grackles (Quiscalus quiscula) - 773-55283 and 773-55287 - were banded at a decoy trap in Columbus, Ohio on the same day, June 21, 1965. Three years later they reentered the decoy trap on the same day, June 23, 1968. It seems quite probable that they had remained "together" in the interim. The probability of their going their separate ways for three years and then meeting at the same time and place is rather small.

Their sex was not known but they may have been a pair. It may be noted that both captures were in the breeding season. Or they may have been members of a social group or flock that remained together during the period. Appreciable numbers of other Grackles were present on both occasions. In the first instance the operator had been away for a few days and let the birds accumulate and on June 21, 1965 banded 46 Grackles including the two noted above. On June 23, 1968 there had been a similar accumulation and 281 Grackles were banded. There were also ten returns and six repeats for Grackles on that day.

I have not heard of Grackles mating for life or of a flock comprising some of the same individuals over a long period. It seems best to withhold judgment.

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