

## Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) Facilitate Opportunistic Feeding by American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*)

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†*Deceased: 19 August 2007*

*[Edited and published posthumously]*

I have previously reported on Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) facilitating opportunistic feeding by Rusty Blackbirds (*Euphagus carolinus*) (Meanley 1972, 1991).

Some years ago at Stuttgart, Arkansas, I observed Common Grackles feeding on acorns that had fallen to the ground. Rusty Blackbirds were on hand, in close proximity to the grackles. When the grackle had removed the acorn's husk, a Rusty would run up to the grackle causing it to drop the nut and "make a pass" at the Rusty. At this point, the more nimble Rusty would grab the dropped nut and make off with its loot (Meanley 1972).

On 24 October 1991, I observed Common Grackles feeding on acorns in a willow oak (*Quercus phellos*) at the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Beneath the tree, Rusty Blackbirds were feeding on the bits of acorn that had fallen to the ground due to the grackle feeding activity above (Meanley 1991).

Here I report observing Common Grackles feeding on American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) nuts, at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Prince George's County, Maryland, and as fragments fell to the ground, American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) were there to feed on them.

### LITERATURE CITED

- Meanley, B. 1972. *Swamps, River Bottoms and Canebrakes*. Barre Publishers, Barre, MA. 142 pp.
- Meanley, B. 1991 [1992]. *The Patuxent River Wildrice Marsh*. Published by the author, MD. 69 pp.