Winter nesting attempts by Great-tailed Grackles.—Great-tailed Grackles (*Cassidix mexicanus*) normally begin nesting from mid-March to late April (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 211, 1958; Selander and Giller, Condor, 63:29–96, 1961), however, an instance of autumnal nesting in this species has been recorded (Selander, Condor, 64:81–91, 1962). The present paper reports observations of winter nesting in Great-tailed Grackles.

During January and early February, 1971, we observed calling, displaying, and related courtship behavior in male Great-tailed Grackles an the Texas A&M campus. Great-tailed Grackles normally use the campus as a spring nesting area and build nests in the numerous live oak trees (*Quercus virginiana*). However, on 16 February, we observed eight newly constructed nests in a single live oak. Females were observed bringing grass and twigs to these nests. Although these females built nests, they failed to lay eggs and complete the breeding cycle.

Two adult male and two adult female Great-tailed Grackles were collected for examination. Ovaries measured 12 mm by 8 mm, with no individual ovum being larger than 1 mm by 1 mm; testes measured approximately 1 mm by 1 mm. These measurements are normal for this time of year.

Fall and winter (1970–71) precipitation levels for the College Station area were much lower than totals for the same periods in 1969–70 or 1968–69 (viz., 14.27 inches for the period June 1970–February 1971; and 28.51 inches and 39.53 inches during the same periods in 1969–70 and 1968–69, respectively). Temperatures ranged 37–85°F (Ave. = 63.0) during 34 of 42 (81 per cent) days prior to occurrence of nests. In the remaining eight days, three separate cold fronts moved through the area; and consequently, minima of 22–41° and maxima of 43–52° (Ave. = 39.6) were recorded for this eight-day period. An extended period of mild temperatures followed these three fronts and was in turn followed by a fourth cold front on the night of 21 February. Low temperatures were sustained for three days; and at this time, all nesting activities ceased.

We feel that the nest-building of these Great-tailed Grackles may have resulted from the abnormally high temperatures and/or dry winter weather. Apparently the threshhold for this portion of the reproductive cycle was lowered; however, the birds were not physiologically ready to continue this behavior sequence to fruition, i.e., egg-laying and incubation.

This is contribution no. TA 9046 from the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.—DONALD W. COON, ROBERT F. GOTIE, AND KEITH A. ARNOLD, *Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station 77843, 15 March 1971.*

Bluebirds successfully nesting in house under construction.—In forty years of studying Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*), I have observed thousands of nests. Most of them were built in nest boxes, but some were built in mail boxes, tin newspaper cylinders, and cavities in tree trunks and fence posts. One nest was built in the cavity of a limestone rock used in a park entrance pillar, but was not successful.

A successful nesting observed in 1970 was most unusual. The nest was built in early August in one compartment of a concrete block placed next to a chimney located in the middle of the wooden section of a two story house under construction and about twenty feet from ground level. The house was being built in a small clearing in deciduous woods in the 140-acre tract owned by Mr. and Mrs. Alex Taylor in Leiper's Fork, Tennessee, twenty miles southwest of Nashville.

When the nest was built and the three eggs laid, the uprights were in place, but the outer walls were not boarded. While incubation was in progress, the walls were boarded, excepting the openings left for windows at front and back of this two-story and attic