

*Wilson Bull.*, 99(4), 1987, p. 724

**Boat-tailed Grackle lays eggs in abandoned nest containing eggs.**—On 6 May 1986 in a cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) marsh at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston County, South Carolina, I found a Boat-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus major*) nest that had 6 eggs. My data for this nest are 19 April, 3 eggs; 28 April, 3 eggs; 6 May, 6 eggs; 17 May, nest empty, but not disheveled, nor with any eggshell fragments. On 17 May a Yellow Rat Snake (*Elaphe obsoletus*) was resting in another Boat-tailed Grackle nest 1.5 m from the subject nest, and it is possible that the snake had taken the contents of both.

During 1983–1986 the mean clutch size of 489 Boat-tailed Grackle nests that I followed was  $2.77 \pm 0.51$  [SD]. The frequency distribution of clutch sizes is repulsed (i.e., there are more observations than expected at the center of the distribution, and fewer at the tails) (Sokal and Rohlf, Biometry, Freeman, San Francisco, California 1969). As suggested by Yom Tov (Biol. Rev. 55:93–108, 1980), in species with such frequency distributions, if any clutch is more than twice the size of the mean, it is reasonable to assume that it was laid by more than one bird. In this population I have found only 6 4-egg clutches (0.8% of sample), and I have not found any 5-egg clutches.

Although the history of the nest is incomplete, I believe the following happened: A bird laid three eggs, and then either abandoned the nest or was incapacitated. I infer this because the incubation period for Boat-tailed Grackles in this population is 13.5 days and the interval between my last visit to the 3-egg nest and the deposition of the additional three eggs was 18 days. About the same time that the nest was abandoned, another female lost her nest just after its completion, and found an available, undefended nest in which to deposit her eggs. The six eggs were incubated by the second female, as they were warm when I examined them on 6 May. Another possibility is that a single female laid 2 clutches in the same nest.

In the cattail colonies that I studied, nest sites were limited, as the grackles used dead vegetation that had stood through the winter. I have found no other instances of nest reuse, however. The behavior reported here therefore appears to have resulted from an unusual combination of circumstances. It cannot be classified as brood parasitism, as the nest and eggs of the first female had probably been abandoned. The interesting aspect is that if a second female was involved, she did not remove the previous eggs before depositing her own.

I thank G. T. Bancroft, P. J. Weatherhead, and L. Wolf for helpful comments.

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*Received 22 Jan. 1987, accepted 3 June 1987.*