

We observed a Loggerhead Kingbird (*Tyrannus caudifasciatus*) capture five small (1-cm carapace) crabs, *Sesarma* sp., at 1450 hours on 24 January 1988, on the beach at Casuarina, Great Abaco, Bahamas. The bird was first observed in the branches of a dead Australian pine, *Casuarina* sp., at the beach edge. After we observed the bird for 3–4 min at a distance of 5 m, it flew directly to the ground and captured a crab almost at our feet. The bird returned to its perch, struck the crab against the branch three times and swallowed it within 5 sec. In 6 min the kingbird captured four more crabs, struck them 0–2 times each and swallowed them shortly after returning to the tree.

Lefebvre and Spahn (1987) and Wunderle (1981) suggest that island flycatchers and kingbirds may broaden their diet opportunistically by using typical foraging behavior to capture novel prey. The behavior recorded here is similar to that observed by Lefebvre and Spahn, in which a kingbird captured small fish.

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**Common Moorhen parasitizes a Boat-tailed Grackle nest.**—On 18 April 1988 in a cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) marsh at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston County, South Carolina, Post found a Boat-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus major*) nest that contained one grackle egg and one Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) egg. He removed the moorhen egg to confirm its identity and to obtain measurements. The moorhen egg was not returned until 20 April, at which time the nest contained three grackle eggs. The first grackle young hatched on 30 April, and the second on 3 May. The third hatched, but died when it was less than one-day-old. Two nest checks made before the grackles hatched showed that the moorhen egg remained in the bottom of the nest under the grackle eggs. On 13 May, Seals checked the nest and saw a downy young moorhen sitting on the rim of the nest. As she approached, the bird jumped down onto some prostrate cattails below the nest. It then jumped into the water, and swam away. There were no moorhen eggshells in the grackle nest. At this time the two grackle young were well grown (10 and 13 days old). If we assume that the moorhen hatched on 13 May, then the interval between hatching and the day it was returned to the nest is 22 days, which is within the known incubation period of the Common Moorhen (19–22 days; Ripley, *Rails of the World*, David R. Godine, Boston, 1977).

In addition to accepting this extremely large egg (weight: 26.8 g, vs Boat-tailed Grackle egg weight of 7.7 g; Bancroft, *Auk* 102:43–48, 1985), it appears that the female grackle incubated and turned it even after her own young had hatched and were well-grown. Boat-tailed Grackles in this population do not brood their young for extended periods after they are seven days old, therefore it is surprising that the moorhen egg received enough heat to hatch. Common Moorhens have been reported using old nests of other species (Ripley, *op. cit.*), and in some populations intraspecific brood parasitism has been reported (Petrie, *in Ecological Aspects of Social Evolution*, D. I. Rubenstein and R. W. Wrangham, eds., Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, 1986). In this study area they sometimes build their nests on

old grackle nests. This occurrence may be viewed either as an attempted nest take-over or a case of egg dumping. As the nest was not altered in any way, the latter is more likely. The moorhen may have lost her own nest before clutch completion and then used the just-completed grackle nest. The little evidence available (Post, *Wilson Bull.* 99:724, 1987) indicates that Boat-tailed Grackles will lay eggs in nests containing foreign eggs. This appears to be the first report of inter-specific brood parasitism by the Common Moorhen, as well as the first of a rail parasitizing a passerine nest.—W. POST AND C. SEALS, *The Charleston Museum, 360 Meeting Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29403. Received 21 June 1988, accepted 15 Jan. 1989.*