segment of the state (Kingery and Lawson 1985). In 1986 a pair reached northwest Utah and began nesting at Tooele, Tooele Co. (Kingery 1986). No nesting records of Great-tailed Grackles have yet to be confirmed in Idaho, however males and females were observed exhibiting courtship behavior during the 1994 breeding season in the Twin Falls and Burley areas, Twin Falls and Cassia Cos., and nesting is thought to have occurred. (C. Trost, pers. comm.).

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Ground-nesting Long-eared Owls.—The Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) is widely distributed throughout the northern hemisphere (Cramp 1985). It generally occurs in temperate northern latitudes and nests primarily in old stick nests in trees or shrubs built by hawks, corvids, and squirrels (Cramp 1985). However, a few nests have been reported on the ground in Britain (Glue 1977; N = 10), Finland (v. Haartman et. al., in Mikkola 1983; N = 2), Netherlands (Wijnandts 1984; N = 1), and Canada (Bent 1938; N = 1, Campbell et al. 1990; N = 1). Herein, we report the first record of ground-nesting by this species in the United States and one from western Canada. We also provide detailed data on the U.S. nest, data on the Canadian nest, and previously unreported data on a nest reported in Campbell et al. (1990).

Since 1986, DWH has conducted a year-round study of Long-eared Owls in west-central

Montana. Over 600 owls have been banded during the breeding and non-breeding seasons. On 24 May 1994, MTM and DWH flushed a female Long-eared Owl from a ground nest that contained five eggs. The owl flew approximately 20 m and perched high in a tree. This is typical of females flushed off the nest. We then immediately left the area.

On 25 May 1994 we returned, captured, and banded the female and measured the nest dimensions. A distinct nest bowl was evident and measured 16 cm in diameter and 4 cm deep. The cup did not appear to be passively formed by an incubating bird. It consisted of an earthen surface, with the vegetation removed, surrounded by a ring of cut grass. The nest was in a planted shelterbelt, approximately 2 km long and 35 m wide. It was under a rose bush (*Rosa woodsii*) at the base of a Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) and surrounded by tall grasses. The closest unoccupied stick nest was 38 m south and had been used in past years by Long-eared Owls. A second stick nest, 100 m to the north was occupied by Long-eared Owls early in the season but was abandoned approximately three weeks before the ground nest was discovered. A third stick nest previously used by Long-eared Owls was 195 m south. Two other intact stick nests were within a 200 m radius of the nest. To our knowledge, they had not been used by Long-eared Owls in the past.

On 24 June 1994, we captured the male Long-eared Owl defending the nesting female and young. He had been banded as a nestling in 1993 in a stick nest 3.5 m above the ground in a tree and approximately 200 m south of the ground nest. We banded all five nestlings on this visit (two to three weeks of age).

Between 30 June and 6 July 1994, all five nestlings had dispersed from the nest and "branched" to nearby trees. The female also left the area during this period also. The young were three to four weeks old. On 9 August, all five young were captured and capable of sustained flight. The male was not located. On 26 August, no Long-eared Owls were in the area. The scenario was similar to other Long-eared Owls nesting in tree stick nests in the study area (authors' observation).

A ground-nesting Long-eared Owl was located by RWC on 22 April 1990 north of Oliver in the southern Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada. The nest was on a slightly raised hummock under rose bushes (*Rosa* spp.). The immediate area was surrounded by water, the nest site being dry. Surrounding trees were mainly trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and tall willows (*Salix* spp.) in a semi-open area. An incubating adult was flushed from the nest which contained five eggs. Five nestlings were seen in the nest on 7 and 15 May. Four nestlings were seen on 20 May. On 31 May, three "branchers" were seen in the immediate area, suggesting success. No other observations were made.

On 22 June 1961, James Grant (corres. to RWC) discovered a ground-nesting Long-eared Owl 17.7 km north of Vernon, Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada (see Campbell et. al. 1990). The nest was beside a pile of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) branches in an opening of dense pole-sized Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) trees. The area had been logged 15–20 years previously. The nest was sheltered by 1-m high snowberries (*Symphocarpus albus*) as well as roses. The female was on the nest with five nestlings. The nestlings fledged by 16 July.

Typically, Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) and Short-eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*) are the only true ground-nesting owls of North America, while the Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*) nests underground. A few accounts of ground-nesting by other North American owls have been reported: Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) (Bent 1938), Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) (Tewes 1984), Great Gray Owls (*Strix nebulosa*) (Bull and Duncan 1993), and Barred Owls (*Strix varia*) (Robertson 1959). But, a literature search indicates that ground-nesting Long-eared Owls are very unusual. In five North American Long-eared Owl studies, only two in 317 nests (0.6%) were found on the ground (Bull et. al. 1989; N = 20, Campbell 1990; N = 61, Holt, unpublished data; N = 67, Marks 1986; N = 112, Peck and James, in

Johnsgard 1988; N = 57). In Europe, it appears to be better documented, but still unusual. Of 570 Long-eared Owl nests documented in Britain, Finland, and Netherlands, only 1.9% (N = 11) were found on the ground (Glue 1977; N = 256, Mikkola 1983; N = 101, Wijnandts 1984; N = 213).

In past cases of ground-nesting Long-eared Owls, Bent (1938) and Glue (1977) both suggest that ground-nesting was due to a scarcity of suitable tree nests or suitable platforms. We do not believe the ground nest in western Montana can be explained by a scarcity of suitable sites, since five vacant stick nests occurred within 200 m of the ground-nest. And, three nests had been used by Long-eared Owls in the past.

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Gray Flycatcher predation on a hummingbird.—On 28 July 1991 at 08:08 EST at the Archbold Tropical Research Center, Springfield Field Station (15°21′N, 61°23′W), Dominica, West Indies, we saw a Gray Flycatcher (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) flying over a lawn with