

## BEHAVIORAL TRAITS OF A GRACKLE

### Range and Habitat:

Permanent resident throughout Florida, breeds in most areas of North America east of the Rocky Mountains and south of the tundra. Inhabits fields, wet meadows, urban areas, shorelines and willow shrublands up to the lower subalpine.

### Breeding and Nesting:

Four to seven light brown or light green eggs with brown and lilac markings are laid in a bulky cup nest made of twigs, grass, mud, feathers and occasionally trash. Nest is placed in a tree, 2-12 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 12 to 14 days and is carried out by the female.

### Foraging and Feeding:

Diet consists of a wide variety of animal and vegetable food, including insects and invertebrates but also occasional eggs and nestlings. May attack and eat small birds and lizards. In coastal areas forages at the tide line for small invertebrates, even wading into the water to capture live fish. During the winter and migration months, diet shifts to plant food.

### Vocalization:

Call is a quick, loud "swaaaack".

### Similar Species:

Similar to this bird are male Great-tailed and Boat-tailed Grackles which are larger and have longer tails.



### Breeding Locations:

Meadows, grassy, Seashore, rocky or sandy, Urban

### Breeding Type: Abundant

### Breeding Population:

Meadows, grassy, Seashore, rocky or sandy, Urban

### Egg Color:

Light Brown, Light Green

### Number of Eggs: 4 - 7

### Incubation Days: 12 - 14

### Egg Incubator: Female

### Nest Material:

Twigs, grass, leaves, rootlets, bits of debris, and feathers.

### Migration: Migratory