

Calcasieu Parish. They studied the colony during 2 successive years. Pratt established in 1972 that the birds had left the Vinton site, and could not be found within 14 km of the area. No apparent habitat changes have occurred since the earlier study. In the second year of their study, Selander and Giller collected a large series of specimens at this colony. In another colony at Sabine, Texas, these investigators collected all resident males. That colony was no longer extant in 1972. Selander et al. (1969) gave specific localities of several grackle colonies in 3 areas: north of Gibbstown, west of Bell City, and near Grand Lake, Louisiana. The colony near Grand Lake, situated in a residential area where collecting would be unwise, was still active in 1972. The colonies at the other sites were far from homes in easily accessible areas and were probably the source of the 134 specimens that Selander et al. (1969) collected. Neither of these colonies were active in 1972 or 1973, nor were there any grackle colonies nearby.

In June 1972, Pratt collected a series of 11 specimens from a mixed colony of "Cassidix" grackles in a pine grove 1 km south of the Lake Charles Airport in Calcasieu Parish. In March 1973, a few grackles were using the trees as temporary resting places, but they did not nest there again.

We believe that Great-tailed Grackles may be equally sensitive to disturbance in other parts of their range, but simply have no alternative nesting sites in areas where the population is at the carrying capacity of the local habitat. In southwestern Louisiana, where much suitable habitat is available, the conspicuous Great-tailed Grackles are still uncommon birds.

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Poplar leaf-stem gall insects as food for warblers and woodpeckers.—In November 1975, as leaves began to fall from the native cottonwood trees (*Populus fremonti*) at our ranch in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona, we noted that most of them had a gall attached to the petiole. Each gall was 10–15 mm across and had a slight split in one side. We had already noted that we had unusual numbers of Audubon's Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*) and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*) in those cottonwoods and began paying more attention to their activity. By mid-November, we realized that the warblers were feeding on the ground in a small area under the cottonwoods, apparently on some small insect. At the same time we noted that both the Ladder-backed Woodpeckers (*Picoides scalaris*) and Arizona Woodpeckers (*P. arizonae*) spent most of the day in the cottonwoods, hanging on tiny twigs and feeding among the leaves, rather than on the trunk and limbs as usual. It was obvious that the galls, both while on the tree and after falling to the ground, were providing an abundant source of food for warblers, kinglets, and woodpeckers.

On 28 November, I collected some of the gall-infested leaves and sent them to the Cooperative Extension Service of Cornell University, State University of New York. They were identified as being caused by 1 or 2 species of aphids, *Pemphigus populitransversus* or *P. populicaulis*, or both. I do not recall any published account of the value of these insect galls as a source of food for migrating and/or wintering warblers and woodpeckers. I am indebted to Dr. Bernard Travis and Carolyn Klass for identification of the galls.—SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD, *Aguila-Rancho, Portal, AZ 85632*. Accepted 2 May 1977.