

Common Grackle

AKA: Grackle, Devil Birds, Blackbird, Jackdaw.

Scientific Classification: Animalia, Chordata, Aves, Passeriformes, Icteridae, *Quiscalus*, *Q. quiscula*.

Bird Size & Markings: Common Grackles are large, lanky birds with long legs and tail. Males are the larger of the species. An adult stands 9" high and is 13" long. Wingspans are up to 18" wide and weights are about 5 ounces. From a distance the plumage looks black, but a closer view shows iridescent dark purple/blue head with an iridescent dark bronze body. A bright golden eye gives it a non-sense expression.

Habitat: Common Grackles thrive around agricultural fields, feedlots, city parks, and suburban lawns. They're also common in open habitats including woodland, forest edges, meadows, and marshes. Common Grackles are large, noisy, and gregarious birds that often flock with other blackbirds, cowbirds, and starlings.

Nesting/Dens: Grackles build nests in trees. Females typically build the nest. The 9" wide nest is usually made of twigs, leaves and grasses along with bits of paper, string and other random materials. They lay between 4 and 7 eggs, twice a year. The chicks fledge 2 to 3 weeks after hatching.

Food: Common Grackles are omnivorous but they love grains including corn, wheat and rice. In summer, they augment their diet with fruits, insects and small animals, including beetles, grasshoppers, caterpillars, spiders, fish, frogs, etc.

Impact on Human Health: Common Grackles are abundant and widespread. If present in large numbers their waste can accumulate quickly. Their droppings are acidic and can contain more than 60 transmittable diseases.

Impact on Architecture: The most common complaint for Grackles is the damage they do to agriculture (from farm fields to gardens). Grackles can do immense damage to crops of all kinds. They gather in large flocks, often with other bird species to eat grains, ripening fruits and berries, grass seed and more. If they are roosting on or above a structure, their droppings can damage nearly any architectural surface.

Common Grackle Control Methods:

Bird Spikes: *Premium Nixalite Stainless Spikes.*

Bird Netting: *K-Net HT Bird Netting, Bird-Net Bird Netting, PollyNet Bird Netting, Bare-Hand Crop & Vineyard Netting, Welded Wire Mesh.*

Dispersal: Fogging with *Fog Force Bird Fogging Repellent, Bird Hazing* with aerosol generators, *Acoustic Dispersal* with HyperSpike acoustic hammers.

Additional Products: The *Air Crow Moving Scare Crow*, the *ScareCrow Motion Activated* sprinkler, *CopperBlocker Access Control*, *Vent & Chimney Guards*, etc.

NOTE: Common Grackles are protected by the US Migratory Bird Treaty Act. **It is your responsibility to check local, state and federal regulations regarding the control of bird and/or animal species.**

Simply purchasing the best control does not guarantee success. Best results come from a thorough knowledge of both the species and the product or method you employ. If you have any questions, please contact Nixalite of America Inc and speak with a bird control product specialist.



Image courtesy
Steve Thompson

From a distance, Common Grackles have black plumage, but up close you can see the iridescent purple/blue head and bright golden eye.



Grackles practice "anting". They hunch over on the ground, wings spread, letting ants crawl over its body and feathers. The formic acid in the ants sting helps rid the bird of parasites.



Image courtesy
Steve Thompson

In large flocks, grackles can do immense damage to crops of all kinds. They prefer grains but will eat any ripening berry or fruit.

Note: factual content from Wikipedia, Audubon, US Center for Disease Control, US Federal Register Codebook, and others.



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