

Grackle Data Collected at Trapping

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Column title	What to enter in the data sheet / How to measure
Bird #	001-999. Each bird gets a unique number in the order they were caught at each site
L leg R leg	There is one color ring on each leg (Y=yellow, P=purple, B=Blue, A=light blue, N=brown, L=black, O=orange, R=red, G=green, V=light green, K=pink, S=silver). Each color ring has CL and a 2 digit number (00-99), Record the color combination and which numbers are on each ring. Read the colors in this order: Left leg first, then Right leg
Blood	Check the box if collected 0.5ml blood. If anything else, write a note
Feathers	Check the box if collected 2 tail feathers (the two outermost retrices) and 2-3 breast feathers. If else, note. Put feathers and piece of paper labeled with date, bird ID (e.g., A-001YP means Arizona - Bird # Yellow Purple bands), and a contact name in a ziplock bag, place in a cooler with ice if available. Store in the -80C freezer ASAP
Age	HY=Hatch Year, SY=Second Year, ASY=After Second Year
Sex	M=male, F=female, J=could be a juvenile of either sex or an adult female
Weight bird + bag	The weight of the bird inside the pillow case as it is hung from the scale . Range: female: CA 96-140g, AZ 78-121g; male: CA 157-234g, AZ 147-190g
Weight bag	Weigh the bag after weighing it with the bird in it. Subtract this weight from the <i>Weight bird + bag</i> to get the weight of the bird
Left wing Right wing	Measure the wing chord using the wing ruler . Put the butted end of the ruler against the top of the wing and press the feathers against the ruler to get the maximum length. <i>See Figure 1 below</i> . Range: female: CA 124-158mm AZ 130-153mm; male: CA 160-206mm, AZ 156-188mm
L central retrix R central retrix	Measure the two central tail feathers using a regular ruler . Push the ruler along the feather until the end touches the bird's body, then press the feather onto the ruler. Left is relative to looking down on the bird's back (or from the bird's perspective).

L tarsus R tarsus	Measure the tarsi using calipers from the upper end of the tarsus bone (not including the joint) to the last large scale on top of the foot. <i>See Figure 2 below</i>
Bill length	Measure from the tip of the bill to the base (at the skull) using calipers
Skull length	Measure with calipers the length of the skull from the base of the bill to the back
Fat Score	Use wet cotton ball or blow feathers away to expose top and bottom of chest. Assess the distribution of fat under the skin (yellowish white tissue). Use Figure 3 below to determine fat score between 0 - 8
Photo	Take a photo of the front of the bird in the hand after it has been banded. This will give an idea of their general condition. If there are any lesions or abnormalities, take up close photos

Which birds to bring into the aviaries for behavioral testing?

- 50% female per batch (except 2019-2020 in Arizona = 100% adult males)
- Adults only (no juveniles unless we are testing hypotheses about development)
- If we know parent-offspring relationships, try to bring parents and their offspring in for testing so we can try to get at the heritability of traits



Figure 1. Measuring the wing chord. Photo license: CC0.



Figure 2. Measuring the tarsus.

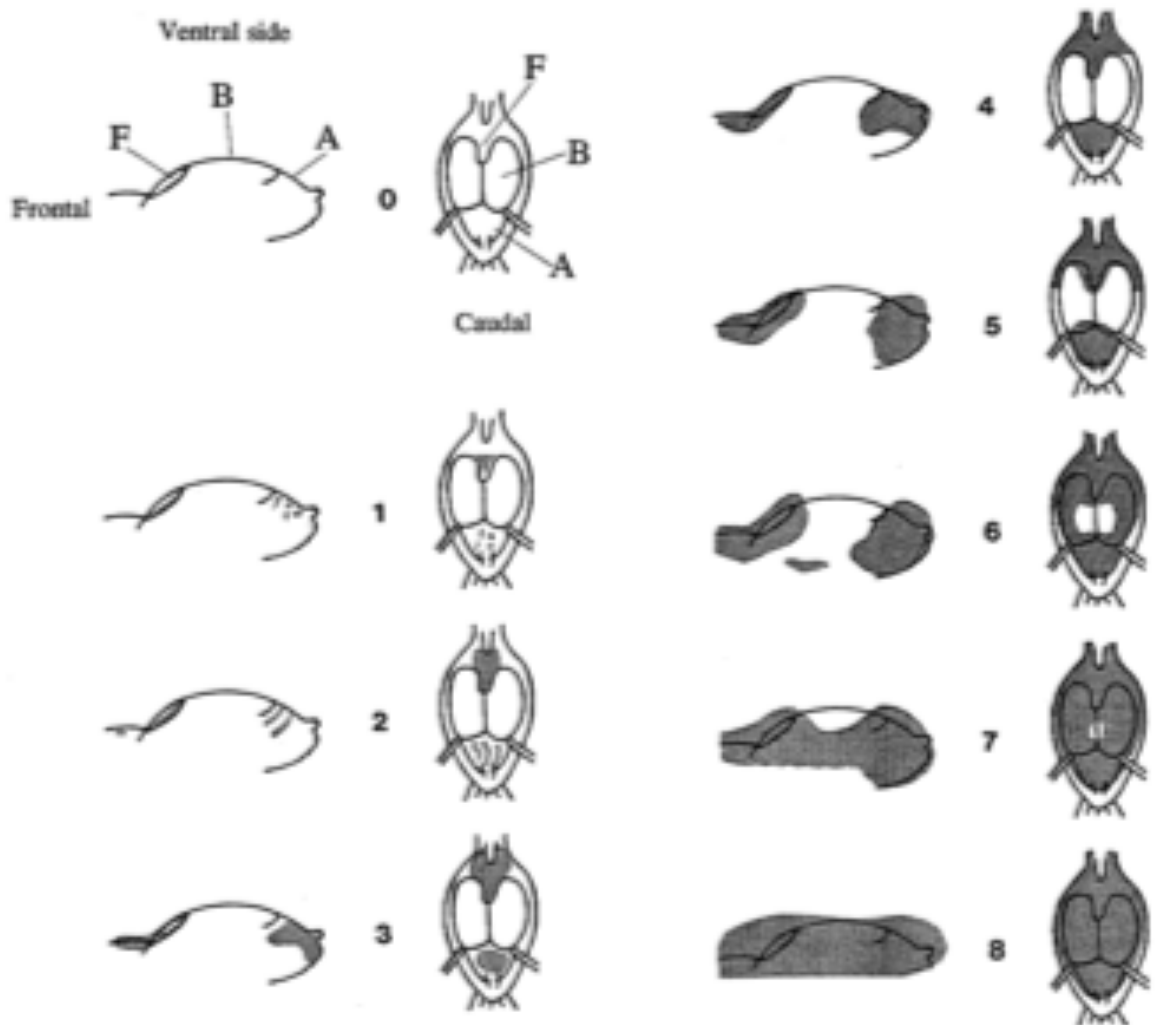


Figure 3: Illustration of the fat content for each score class (Figure 1 in Kaiser 1993 J Field Ornithol).