

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Black-headed Grosbeak
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1

3. Parish: St. Landry
Specific Locality: Sunset, Louisiana

4. Date(s) when observed: December 30, 2019; December 31, 2019

5. Time(s) of day when observed: late afternoon (sometime after 4 pm) and then again about 5:30 pm on December 30, 2019, and three times on December 31, 2019, around 9:00 a.m., midmorning, and at 1:05 p.m.

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Bonnie Taylor Barry
City: Sunset
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): none

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): On December 30, 2019, the light was very poor; I was shooting photo through glass door and shutter speed was very slow; consequently, the photo is poor. Will be on lookout tomorrow and try to get more photos if there is another sighting. Update: Was able to photograph the bird in excellent light on December 31, 2019.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon D500; Nikon 500mm lens with 1.4 teleconverter

11. Distance to bird(s): 20 feet on December 30, 2019; 15 feet on December 31, 2019.

12. Duration of observation: About five minutes on December 30, 2019; one to three minutes during each siting on December 31, 2019.

13. Habitat: I'm not sure how to answer this. The bird was feeding with regular songbirds that come to my feeders in my back yard (cardinals, chipping sparrows, doves, etc.)

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Feeding on black oil sunflower seeds on ground on flagstone area on December 30, 2019; feeding on hanging feeder on December 31, 2019 as well as on the flagstone area it visited on previous day.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species; body bulk, shape, proportions; bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*): This bird was about the size of a Northern cardinal, possibly a bit chunkier; similar to rose breasted grosbeak which I generally see in the spring at my feeders. Photos provided give the description needed.

16. Voice: N/A

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): I entered a description online and came to the conclusion this could be a black headed grosbeak based on the pictures I observed online.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photos by Bonnie Taylor Barry (attached)

19. Previous experience with this species: None; I have been photographing birds for many years and have never seen one of these in my yard nor anywhere else.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification): Birding websites online

a. at time of observation: At time of observation, I did not know what it was.

b. after observation: Online research led me to conclude this might be a Black-headed Grosbeak.

21. This description is written from:

	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
*	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	December 30, 2019
	memory		
*	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: No, I am not positive; that is why I am contacting this website. After seeing the bird more clearly on December 31, 2019, I feel pretty certain this is a Black-headed Grosbeak.

23. Date: December 30, 2019

Time: 7:12 p.m. (Time I am submitting this report); December 31, 2019, 2:45 (Time I am submitting second report).

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

_____ Yes _____

If yes, may we include your name with the report? _____ Yes _____







