

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 <HYPERLINK "mailto:zoiseaux@lusfiber.net" zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Black-Headed Grosbeak, <i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage) - One Individual -Male INCLUDEPICTURE "http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/dot_clear.gif" * MERGEFORMATINET
3. Parish: Saint Martin Specific Locality: 1184 Prairie Highway Saint Martinville LA 70582
4. Date(s) when observed Jan1,-13 th ,15 th ,17 th 2021 INCLUDEPICTURE "http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/dot_clear.gif" * MERGEFORMATINET
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 6:45 am-10:00am, 3:00 pm-6:00 pm
6. Reporting observer and city/state address Reporting observer: Tad Guidry City: 1184 Prairie highway Unit A Saint Martinville LA 70582 State: Louisiana INCLUDEPICTURE "http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/dot_clear.gif" * MERGEFORMATINET
7. <u>Other observers</u> accompanying reporter who also <i>identified</i> the bird(s):NA INCLUDEPICTURE "http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/dot_clear.gif" * MERGEFORMATINET
8. <u>Other observers who independently identified</u> the bird(s): Michael Musumeche came to my home on Feb 27 th 2020 and saw the bird while I was not present. On Dec 27 th 2020 David Booth came to my home and spotted the bird at my feeder. We separately agreed with the ID. On Jan-2-2021 Robert Dobbs, David Booth, Michael Musumeche, Charlotte Stan came to my home and observed the bird briefly as it came through my yard on several passes. It appeared skittist and did not stop at my feeder possibly due to our presence. INCLUDEPICTURE "http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/dot_clear.gif" * MERGEFORMATINET
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):Cloudy /early morning. Sunny later in the morning and afternoon. Bird was primarily seen on the North side of my home since that is the direction of my feeders in relation to my front door. INCLUDEPICTURE "http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/dot_clear.gif" * MERGEFORMATINET
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Camera-Nikon Coolpix P900-Good condition. Vortex Diamondback 12x50 Binoculars. INCLUDEPICTURE "http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/dot_clear.gif" * MERGEFORMATINET

11. Distance to bird(s): 15 -25 feet from my front door to bird feeder at edge of my porch or tree where bird would perch before landing at feeder. Other sightings from my yard ranged from 50-100 feet as it stayed in the treetop near my feeder.

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12. Duration of observation: Usually at 5-minute intervals while bird fed on seed or suet that contained seed. Some observations occurred several times a day.

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13. Habitat: Habitat around my house is bottomland hardwood with Lake Martin about 1/2 mile away. Tall trees (50-80 feet) extend between my home and the lake. There is an approximately 150- foot ditch with overgrown brush and tall grass that is left unmanicured and several hundred yards of a right-of-way that is cut every few years. Grass and Ragweed stalks are present in these areas, I have seen Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks in this overgrowth earlier this year. To the North is many acres of woods that are considered bottomland hardwoods and wetlands and are not allowed to be developed. South of my home is a large open field with grass that is cut several times a year by bush-hog followed by more bottomland hardwoods/ wetland. Residential homes also follow the highway my home but houses are only allowed within several hundred feet of the highway due to flooding and protected wetland.

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14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): First sighting occurred when I saw movement by my bird feeder and recognized the bird as the Black Headed Grosbeak from previous sightings. Got to my camera and collected a few pictures. Observed bird at feeder and on tree near feeder. Chased a cardinal away from feeder at one point during sighting. Bird stayed in tree at 15-20 feet in height while seemingly waiting for a turn at the feeder while other birds fed (my feeder is on second story balcony). Bird landed on Suet feeder several times over the period of these sightings. Watched bird land on the railing occasionally but it usually perched on small branches of an ash tree before landing on my feeders.

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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*):

Spotted a bird feeder. Black head, Orange breast and belly circling to back of neck and eyebrow. Yellow spot seen on central belly. Black and gray smaller stripes on upper back(mottled). Lower back was black with white dashes on wings, under tail had larger white area. Bill matched the shape of Grosbeak species and was bi-colored. Top part of bill appeared dark while bottom was light colored with a faded pinkish hue. Size was similar to a Northern Cardinal.

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16. Voice: N/A Did not hear bird vocalize, most of my sightings were from inside of my home through the window or glass of front door.

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17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Rose Breasted Grosbeak- Did not have rose color, and had yellow/orange on chest/belly. Black head with Orange eyebrow and bi-colored bill do match Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

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18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): I collected several photos using a Nikon Coolpix P900. Sent photos to Paul Conover who is also the LOS contact that this form was submitted. Photos were collected throughout the dates recorded on line 4 of this form.

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19. Previous experience with this species:

2-8-2020- I reported my first sighting after putting pictures on facebook and asking for help with the ID. Bird stayed several weeks and ate from my feeder many times during this period. I reported the sightings on E-bird on the dates where the bird was observed during this time frame. At the time I did not have a quality camera but had managed to get pictures through my binoculars with my cell phone. Michael Musumeche visited my home and was able to spot this bird and confirm the ID on 2-27-2020. Submitted this form to Paul Conover for this sighting.

11-04-2020- Same species was here in November for one day very briefly where I happened to see it and photograph it at my bird bath. Reported using this form to LOS at the time of the sighting. Pictures at bath were included.

12-19-31-2020- Reported to Paul Conover the sighting of this bird and sent additional pictures collected throughout this time frame. To keep the date range from being too expansive I started a new LBRC form for the 2021 year.

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20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification): Merlin app-photo ID. Audubon field guide. Sibley Field guide.

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a. at time of observation: Merlin app-photo ID. Audubon field guide. Sibley Field guide.

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b. after observation: Merlin app-photo ID. Audubon field guide. Sibley Field guide.

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21. This description is written from: notes made during the observation. Are notes attached? notes made after the observation. At what date?

memory study of images- I used the pictures I collected to aid in the ID and describe the bird.

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: I am open to suggestions but have had several others on the LOS face-book page suggest and confirm the ID. I am open to suggestions but believe this is a positive ID for this species due to the pictures collected and discussions with more experienced bird watchers.

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23. Date:

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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 _____





