

[Return to LBRC Page](#)

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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

- English and Scientific names: *Black-headed Grosbeak (Aphelocoma melanocephalus)*
- Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 First year Fall Male
- Locality: (parish) St. Tammany
Specific Locality: 209 Pineridge Ct, Mandeville, LA 70448 (private residence)
- Date(s) when observed: Originally glimpsed at our feeder on Nov 28, 2020. Positive ID was not confirmed. ID was made on Dec 8 with observation & pictures. Continuing bird has been seen and photographed on Dec 9, 10, 11, & 12.
- Time(s) of day when observed: Nov 28 (10:00), Dec 6 (9:45), Dec 8 (13:00), Dec 9 (11:45, 14:30), Dec 10 (10:30)(14:45), Dec 11 (8:30, 15:30) Dec 12 (8:45, 9:00)
- Reporting observer and address: WARREN MENDENHALL
209 Pineridge Ct, Mandeville, LA 70448
- Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): N/A
- Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): N/A
- Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
The windows facing feeder and trees look SE. Morning light is behind the bird, Afternoon light is unobstructed from the SW, in the trees & on the feeder.
- Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
Binoculars: Swarovski 8x30, excellent condition
Camera: Canon PowerShot SX730HS, 40x optical zoom, 200x digital - excellent
- Distance to bird(s): Bird on feeder was 2-4 ft from observer behind window. Bird in tree was approx 20 ft from observer behind second-story window.
- Duration of observation: Observations ranged from a few seconds to under 5 minutes. When bird was ID'd observation was 3-4 minutes.
- Habitat: Neighborhood is old & established with mature growth of predominantly pines & oaks. Residence property is adjacent to Tammany Trace bike trail. Bird feeder has a large pine and smaller oak the birds use for staging within 15 feet.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird was observed multiple times at the feeder. Usually had the feeder to itself, eating black sunflower seeds. When disturbed by our movements or the arrival of a Red-bellied Woodpecker, it usually flew to the nearby tree or bushes before flying out of sight.

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): I saw feed the chickadees, titmouse, and sparrows at the feeder. Same size as Cardinal with more "bulk". Dark upper mandible & bi-colored beak. Rich orange-buff underparts with more.

16. Voice: N/A Yellow near tail. Very faint streaking.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
 1ST FALL Rose-breasted Grosbeak: buff chest w/ streaking, pale bill
 Female Black-headed Grosbeak: buff breast, light streaking

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Multiple images taken by observer.

SEE ATTACHED

19. Previous experience with this species:

First observation was on a 2001 Spring birding trip to the Texas coast & Santa Ana Refuge area.

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

Sibley (Eastern Edition 2003), National Geographic 7th edition, photos on Ebird.

a. at time of observation:

Guides, concentrating on distinguishing characteristics.

b. after observation:

Guides, my photographs.

Confirming emails with Oscar Johnson - LSU.

21. This description is written from: ___ notes made during the observation (___ notes attached?); ___ notes made after the observation (date: ~~●~~); memory. & photographs

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain:

Yes

23. Signature of reporter: Wendy Johnson Date: 12/12/2020 Time: 16:00

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

Return to LBRC Page