

Louisiana Ornithological Society's
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.

1. English and Scientific names:

Grace's Warbler, *Dendroica graciae*

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage, etc.

One, sex and age unknown, fall plumage.

3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) (specific locality)

Rapides Parish, riparian area on south side of LA 121 approximately ¼ mile west of intersection with LA 1201.

4. 4. Date(s) when observed:

October 3, 2020

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

Observed about 9:45 AM CST.

6. Reporting observer and address:

Jay V. Huner, 428 Hickory Hill Drive, Boyce, Louisiana 71409

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):

Mid-morning, bird viewed clearly with no shadows interfering with my view.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Swarowski 10x42 binoculars – excellent condition.

11. Distance to bird(s):

Initially about 30 yards directly above me and secondly about 50 yards in canopy directly beyond me.

12. Duration of Observation:

Initially at least half a minute and later a similar time.

13. Habitat:

Deciduous riparian habitat adjacent to LA 121 and a slough off Bayou Rapides.

14. Behavior of bird/circumstances of observations (flying, feeding, resting; including and stress habits in identification: relate events surrounding observation):

I was watching a flock of foraging songbirds in deciduous riparian woods when I saw, with bare eyes, what appeared to be a small, bright yellow-breasted bird. When I focused on it, I saw the bird more or less directly above me and stationary. It subsequently flushed from its perch and flew away from the road further back in the canopy. It appeared to be foraging.

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):

16.

This is my modified eBird Report:

I found this bird in the top of riparian deciduous trees adjacent to LA 121. I was struck by its bright yellow breast and throat, bright white belly, yellow eyebrow (not lores), and paired whitish wing bars. The back was grayish blue. The bill was very small and the bird was very small. I did not notice streaking below the wings; however, I was viewing the bird from below and head on when I first saw it and could not view the bird's side(s) when I relocated it. It did not have distinct black spectacles. The bird was in a mixed flock of song birds including a Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Chickadees, a female type Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Blue Jays. Size much smaller than nearby Tufted Titmouse and similar to nearby Carolina Chickadees. I saw the bird clearly with 10 x 42 Swarovski binoculars. The bird was about 30 yards from me and clearly filled my binocular view. I

watched it for about half a minute before trying to get a picture. By the time I got my camera up, it had flown further back into the canopy. I spotted it a second time but was not so very clear a view as the original view and farther away. The bird is not listed in the eBird rarities for Louisiana. So, it could be the first report. The default bird would be Yellow-throated Warbler but body size, bill size, lack of bright black spectacles, and yellow eyebrow (not lores) do not favor that diagnosis.

17. Voice:

Bird was silent.

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

As explained above, the bird was smaller than Yellow-throated Warbler and had a very small bill. I did not notice streaking below the wings.

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?):

None as explained above.

20. Previous experience with this species:

I have seen Virginia Warblers on two previous visits to Arizona.

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

- a. at time of observation: Audubon and BirdPro software and Kaufman's Field Guide.
- b. after observation: Peterson's Field Guide to Birds of North America; Dunn and Garrett Peterson Field Guides – Warblers; and Robbins, Bruun, and Zim Golden Guide, A Guide to Field Identification Birds of North America.

22. This description is written from: notes made during the observation (notes attached?); note made after the observation (date: 10/3/20); memory.

Brt yellow brst; white ventral; small; 2 wing bars; yel. Lores [eye brow].

23. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain.

I am as sure as I can be that I saw a Grace's Warbler. I recognize that my field ID skills are somewhat "suspect" and that I have photographs. So be it. The bird is as I have described it.

24. Signature of reporter signed Jay V. Huner date 10/07/2020 time 8:00PM

