

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

1. **Common and scientific name:** Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage:** 1 female; unsure of age.
3. **Locality: State (Louisiana) Parish:** Orleans

Exact Location: Just outside the sewage treatment plant next to the old Crescent Acres dump.
4. **Date(s) seen:** January 11, 2004
5. **Time(s) of day seen:** 11:55 a.m.-12:05 p.m.
6. **Reporting observer and address:** Phillip Wallace
4515 S. Prieur St.
New Orleans, LA 70125-5044
7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:** David Muth (Discovered the bird.)
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird:** None that I know of.
9. **Light conditions:** The light was fair to good. There was bright sunshine, but the bird was in the shade as well as the sunlight.
10. **Optical equipment:** Zeiss 10x40 bins
11. **Distance to the bird:** 15-30 yards
12. **Duration of observation:** The bird was in view for 5-7 minutes.
13. **Habitat (general and specific):** A small wooded area along a slough just outside of the swamp adjacent to the sewage treatment plant. The woods were primarily tallow and hackberry with extensive undergrowth.
14. **Behavior:** The bird was foraging practically on the ground in lantana and as high as 25 feet in tallow and hackberry. She came in initially to an Eastern Screech-Owl tape but only after it had been playing for several minutes.

15. Description:

Size and General Impression Obviously a grosbeak of the Black-headed/Rose-breasted type.

Head The bird had a bullheaded look. It had the typical female grosbeak mask or dark brown auricular patch. The orange-buff color on the throat and upper breast continued around to the nape.

Upper Parts The upper parts were brownish with darker streaking.

Wings The wings were dark brown with two white wingbars.

Underparts The underparts were generally off-white, with very thin dark streaks on the flanks. The center of the breast was clear of streaking. The throat and upper breast were an orange-buff color.

Bill The large grosbeak-sized bill was horn colored.

16. Voice: The sharp "pik" call-note was heard before the bird was seen. Muth noted it as something unusual, but Wallace wasn't sure that it wasn't just an aberrant Hairy Woodpecker call.

17. Similar species and how they were eliminated: The absence of streaking in the center of the breast eliminates Rose-breasted. The identification is reinforced by the orange-buff color in the throat, breast, and nape, as well as by the call note, which was different from that of the Rose-breasted, which always sounds to me like "pink."

18. Photographs? Muth got extensive video.

19. Previous experience with this species: I've seen once before in Louisiana and many times out west, as recently as summer 2003.

20. Aids used in identification:

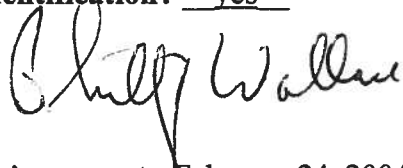
a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: Pyle

21. This description written from: _____ notes made during observation;
_____ x _____ notes made after observation (notes were written at 2:30 p.m. on the day of the observation before consulting any field guides.); _____ from memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? yes

23. Signature of reporter:



24. Date and time of writing this account: February 24, 2004 5:50 p.m.

Notes written at 2:30 on
1/11/04

Black-headed Grosbeak

1/11/04

♀ fluffy

~~11:55~~ 11:55 - 12:05

Distance 15 - 30 yds

too

Light fair to good.

Bright sunshine.

bird in shade at sunrise

Grosbeak of black-headed / rose-breasted size.
Orange/buff color on throat and upper breast and
on nape.

Very thin dark streaks on flanks; breast
clear of streaking.

Grosbeak mask.

Horn colored bill; large grosbeak size.

Underparts off white, except as described above.

Shank "pik" call note. Much first
called attention to the call note before the
bird was seen. We had asked if it was
just a Hairy Woodpecker, even though
it didn't sound quite right for a H.W.P.

Brownish upper parts; streaked under.
2 white wing bars.