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). <u>Attach additional pages as necessary</u>. 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: Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticas melanocephalus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):   1 immature male
3. Locality: **<u>LOUISIANA</u>** Parish: Saint Tammany   Specific locality: 19170 Antenor St., Mandeville, LA
4. Date(s) when observed: Wednesday, December 7, 2011
5. Time(s) of day when observed: Appx 1:30PM.
6. Reporting observer and address: **Claire Thomas 19170 Antenor St, Mandeville, LA 70471-6937; email: claire@clairedthomas.com**
7. <u>Other observers</u> accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): N/A
8. <u>Other observers</u> who *independently identified* the bird(s): N/A
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):   Cloudy day with grey sky, bird lit from above
10. Optics: **Wind River: 10x50, Nikon D80 camera: 55-200mm lens**
11. Distance to bird(s):   30 to 40 feet away.
12. Duration of observation: 5 to 10 minutes.
13. Habitat: Neighborhood subdivision, mixed woods, shrubs, bird sitting in Vitex tree, bird feeders, drainage canal
14. Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):   Perched, resting.
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):   Grosbeak-type passerine (about 8" long) with heavy, thick bill, black & white facial pattern, with strong cinnamon-orange throat, breast & belly. Seen from front. Bird faced me and turned head to either side revealing dark/white/dark/white facial pattern of an immature. The large amount of cinnamon-orange color on it's front/underside ruled out Rose-breasted Grosbeak. No streaking. Bill was bi-colored with upper bill dark and lower somewhat lighter.
16. Voice: None heard.
17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Rose-breasted Grosbeak is the only other species remotely similar, but the heavy orange/cinnamon color with no visible streaking ruled out that species. Also the bi-color bill was distinctive.
18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photos taken by Claire Thomas, attached
19. Previous experience with this species: None
20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):   a. at time of observation: Sibley's East, Nat Geo - birds of north america
b. after observation: Same books as above. I also sent photos to Van Remson for ID
21. This description is written from: [] notes made during the observation ([ ]notes attached?)   [x] notes made after the observation (date: 12/7/11);   [X]memory.
22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: 100% positive.
23. Signature of reporter: Date/Time: 12/7/11   1:30PM
24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its webite?   [X]Yes   [ ]No
If yes, may we include your name with the report?   [X]Yes   [ ]No