

# 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: *Black-headed Grosbeak*, *Pheucticus melanocephalus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
*One, female*
3. Locality: Parish: Lafayette  
Specific Locality: 105 Hal Dr. (Must yard), Lafayette
4. Date(s) when observed: *07 January 2019*
5. Time(s) of day when observed: *0830 CST*
6. Reporting observer and address: *Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA*
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): *Andy From*
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): *Rose and Jack Must, Danny Dobbs, and many others.*
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): *Soft light under relatively bright, but overcast sky, in area shaded by tall tree canopy.*
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): *Swarovski 8x30 binos (good condition), Nikon AF-S 300 mm 1:4 D camera lens (good condition)*
11. Distance to bird(s): *15-20 m*
12. Duration of observation: *1-2 min, during two bouts*

13. Habitat: Large residential backyard with much natural vegetation/habitat and many bird feeders

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): I first saw the bird perch briefly (10 sec?) on an exposed plant stem as it moved toward a/the feeder. After retreating to thick veg for a bit, it then actually did go perch on and feed at the feeder for at least one minute.

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): An obvious female-type *Pheucticus* grosbeak, approximately the size of nearby cardinals, with similarly deep, conical-shaped bill. Bill grayish with horn-colored tinge. Whitish supercilium bordered above by dark brown crown (with whitish central crown stripe also) and below by dark brown auricular patch, which then was bordered below by whitish malar area and orange sides of neck. Orange sides of neck bled onto nape and onto breast. Ground color of belly, sides and vent off-whitish. Short, thin streaks occurred on sides, continuing down onto flanks, but did not extend out into center of breast. Underwing coverts bright yellow. Back with indistinct blackish-grayish striping. Feathers of upperwing (folded) dark brown with white spotting created by white tips of secondary coverts and tertials.

16. Voice: Not vocal

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Young male Rose-breasted Grosbeak would have red underwing coverts, unlike this bird, which had bright yellow underwing coverts (shown in one of attached photos). Female Rose-breasted Grosbeak would likely not be as orange on the side of the neck or breast, and would have less distinct, thicker streaking below, with streaking probably extending out into middle of breast. Rose-breasted Grosbeak of any age-sex class would likely have paler, pinker bill color.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Photos by R. Dobbs, attached.

19. Previous experience with this species: Extensive from much time in the western U.S.

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: Nat Geo Complete Guide to Birds of North America.

21. This description is written from:   X   notes made during the observation  
(       notes attached?);        notes made after the observation (date:       );  
  X   memory;   X   images taken during the observation.

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

23. Date:  11 Feb 2019  Time:  1345 CST 

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or  
portions of this report on its website?   Yes  

If yes, may we include your name with the report?   Yes  







