

**LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION**

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Species: Black-throated Gray Warbler, *Setophaga nigrescens*

Location: City Park, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana

Date: 11 March 2015

Age and sex: Second year male

Molt status: Possibly some molt on the throat, not sure

Number of individuals: One

Other observers: None

Circumstances: I birded the area around the intersection of Roosevelt Mall St and Stadium Drive looking for the wintering Black-throated Gray Warbler, which I eventually found after about an hour of searching. High overcast, ~65 degrees F, fairly calm. Most bird activity involved small mixed flocks in the oaks, where I eventually found the Black-throated Gray Warbler a few hundred meters northwest of the intersection of Roosevelt Mall Drive and Stadium Drive. I was able to digi-bin a few terrible photos (iPhone photos through my binoculars).

Description: A medium sized *Setophaga* warbler, foraging with other warblers in a small mixed flock. White supercilium and malar, gray auriculars. Small yellow supraloral spot separated from the supercilium by some dark. Gray crown. Throat gray with a blackish lower margin. Rest of underparts white with long blurry dark flank streaks. Undertail white with small dark posterior corners. Back gray. Wings dark with two prominent wing bars. I was able to get good looks at the underside of the tail, and in particular the tail shape; the retrices were noticeably narrow and pointed at the tip, indicating a second year bird. I was less sure about this, but it looked like the greater secondary coverts were darker than the rest of the wing, possibly indicating a molt limit. Second year males have a partially dark throat (like this bird), while second year females are largely white-throated.

Discussion: Identification fairly straightforward, few other warblers show this contrasting white-gray-black pattern, particularly the white supercilium and malar, with dark auriculars and throat. Black-and-white Warbler shows a similar head pattern, but has very different structure, behavior, tail pattern, and back pattern.

