

**LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION**

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

Location: Arsenal Park, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

Date: 2 December 2020

Age and sex: Female, possibly a first cycle

Molt status: None apparent

Number of individuals: One

Other observers: Andre Moncrieff, Dan Lane

Original observer: Andre Moncrieff

Circumstances: I got a message from Andre that he had found this bird at Capitol Lakes (Arsenal Park) and I headed over immediately to look for it. It took Andre and I about a half an hour of looking, but we finally re-founded it on the north side of the arsenal building. The bird responded to a mob track and came in close to some low shrubs, where I managed to get some photos (Andre's camera battery died at this very inopportune moment) before the bird flew off to some oaks to the northwest. Dan was able to relocate the bird a few hours later, though only briefly. After talking with Matt Brady, David Vander Pluym, and Lauren Harter, we realized that the bird Andre found today and the one that they saw a week earlier at the exact same location were different individuals. The first one reported a week ago was an adult with a black throat, while the bird that Andre and I saw had a fully white throat. Weather was quite pleasant, temps in upper 50s, 10 mph E wind, clear. eBird list: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S76981637>

Description: A small, contrasty warbler with a black/white/gray color palette. White below with broad black streaks on flanks. Wings dark with obvious white wing bars. Throat white. Auriculars dark gray. Broad white supercilium. Crown gray. Lateral crown stripe black. Small yellow spot in lores. Back gray, unstreaked. White tail spots, but I wasn't able to note the pattern.

Discussion: A straightforward identification. No other warbler has this combination of dark mask and flank streaks, white throat, white supercilium, and in particular a yellow loreal spot. It is amazing that two birds were found in this park just a week apart. I believe that these represent the first and second parish records.



