

IORC #2013.017

- 1) Reason for documenting this sighting: - unusual species,
- 2) Species: BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK
- 3) Number of birds: 1
- 4) Age/Sex/Plumage: Male- probably a subadult or an adult
- 5) Date(s): 5/30/13
- 6) Location (include county): River Forest backyard, Cook Co
- 7) Observers: self, Dan Anzia, Eric Gyllenhaal, Aaron Gyllenhaal, Ethan Gyllenhaal, Joe Lill, Jeff Sanders, Jeff Skrentney,
- 8) Your name: Jill Anderson
- 9) Your mailing address: [REDACTED]
- 10) Your e-mail address: [REDACTED]
- 11) Others agreeing with the identification: everyone in #7 agrees
- 12) Observers NOT agreeing with the identification: N/A
- 13) Description of bird (size, shape, proportions, details of both color and pattern on head, back, chin, throat, breast, flanks, wings, undertail, and tail, etc.; coloration of soft parts: bill, legs, and feet). Include only details actually seen in the field: About the same size as a Rose Breasted Grosbeak. Stocky / plump but with an Orange-y unstreaked breast. Large, grosbeak-sized bill was gray. The underwing coverts were yellow. The wings were black with large splotches of white on them. Back was streaked black on orange, as was the crown. The orange/black coloration on head and back looked "messy" as if the bird was molting. Face was mostly dark.
- 14) Description of behavior: First observed pulling black oil sunflower seeds out of a mesh feeder, cracking the seeds and feeding on them. It was aggressive towards smaller birds (house finch) at the feeder - flew off when rain became heavy but returned after storm, cont'd same feeding behavior. It was frightened off once when a gust of wind blew the lid off of a garbage can nearby, but returned. It approached the feeder in steps: first perched on the top of the feeder pole, and then hopped to top of feeder, then down onto the feeder.
- 15) Description of vocalizations: Earlier in day, I heard what I thought was a Rose breasted grosbeak while I was doing yardwork. The voice sounded a bit "hoarse" and I briefly considered

scarlet tanager, but it was "sing-song". I didnt notice any chip notes and couldnt locate the bird visually.

16) Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s): Suburban backyard with tree canopy of varying heights. Multiple feeders in yard but most were empty at the time of initial sighting.

17) Optical equipment used for observation (type, power): Sworovski 10X 42 binoculars

18) Distance/how measured? feeder is about 1.5 garage lengths away from the house.

19) Time(s) of observation: visited feeder 4 times between 4 PM - 7:40 PM; visible at feeder approx once every 4 hrs for 3-5 minutes.

20) Total time of observation:12-18 minutes

21) Weather conditions: Initially raining lightly, then heavily. Subsequent visits: overcast and threatening rain, with rumbles of thunder, but rain held off.

22) Previous experience with this species and similar species: Familiar with this bird from multiple sightings in Utah.and Arizona

23) Please eliminate other similar species and/or hybrids: Coloring was wrong for RB Grosbeak. Way too fat,and wrong bill shape to be an oriole.

24) Were photos obtained? yes

25) If so, by whom? by me (blurry due to rain, cheap camera, and lack of talent) and the Gyllenhaals.

26) Books and illustrations consulted and advice received. How did these influence this description?

Sibley, Stokes. We studied the plumage sequence of BH Grosbeak as illustrated in Sibley in an effort to age the bird.

27) How long after the observation were field notes recorded? 2 hours

28) How long after the observation was this form completed? 20 hours

29) Additional remarks:

Ethan Gyllenhaal has better photos, including one showing the bright yellow underwing coverts



