



**Black-throated Gray Warbler in Delaware County:** At approximately 11:00 A.M. on November 29, 1972, my wife and I came upon a male Black-throated Gray Warbler in a pine tree in a small public park in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. It flew close past us and then settled again some fifteen or twenty feet up in another small pine tree not more than twenty feet from us. It was feeding very actively and so was not easy to get in binoculars. However, within the next two minutes we had very clear views of its characteristic features, especially the strong contrast between the black throat and white underparts, the black cap, the two broad white bands above and below the eye, and the gray back. The bird is not one with which I am familiar, and so I did not look for the yellow spot by the eye. This was seen subsequently by other observers. When the bird flew off, we did not follow it as we wanted to alert other observers.

The bird could not be found later in the day on November 29 or on the following day. A search on December 2 was similarly unsuccessful. However, Mrs. John McWilliams found it at exactly the same spot on December 3, again in mid-morning. Thereafter it was seen by several other observers over a period of several days. To my knowledge, the bird was last seen on December 13.

The bird was twice seen at about 8:30 A.M., with the other observations being about 11:00 or shortly thereafter. It never stayed for more than a few minutes, and no one discovered where it spent the rest of its time. Most of the immediately surrounding area seemed quite unsuitable for an insect-eating bird so late in the season. Two or three observers heard its characteristic call note.

This appears to be the third Pennsylvania record. Poole cites a 1912 record from Wyoming County (*Birds of Pennsylvania*, p. 56), and on September 20, 1972, a female was seen and photographed at Whitehall, Pennsylvania (*American Birds*, Vol. 27, No. 1, p. 39). (Ed.—The fourth state record was not long in coming. On January 15, 1973, one—either a female or immature male—was picked up dead in Gladwyne, and a skin was made by Jean Milmine of the Schuylkill Valley Nature Center. According to G. Bernard Van Cleve, there have apparently

97

been no records of the Black-throated Gray Warbler in western Pennsylvania, although there are a few for nearby portions of Ohio and New York).

—Horace G. Alexander, 305 Rutgers Ave.,  
Swarthmore, Pa. 19081

Cassinia 54:27-28

# Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)

Date of Sighting: 27 November 1972 to 7 December 1972

Location: SWARTHMORE

County: DELAWARE

Observer(s): Horace Alexander, Helen McWilliams

Date of Submission: 2001

Submitted by: PORC Archives

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead	X							
D. Couchman								
P. Hess	X							
J. Stanley	X							
B. Reid	X							
R. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	6							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 6/0

Signature (Secretary):

Date: 9/23/03