

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, Pennsylvania 17555-9726

8 June 1994

James Randolph
R.R. 2 Box 412
Summersville, PA 15864

Dear James,

Thank you for submitting a description and photographs of the grosbeak at your feeder on 6-7 May 1993. We regret that we cannot accept this as a record of a Black-headed Grosbeak. In the collective view of the P.O.R.C. and after extensive review, the bird is in fact almost certainly an aberrant Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Characters supporting this are the pale upper mandible, fairly well-defined streaking across the center of the breast and the prominent white supercilium. Black-headed Grosbeak has a darker upper mandible, less streaking across the breast and a narrower buff supercilium. The yellow breast is an aberration probably caused by a condition called Xanthochroism (increase in yellow pigment).

We would strongly encourage you to submit details on any rare birds you find in the future. Photographs are particularly useful as a back-up to written descriptions.

Sincerely,



Ed Kwater
Chairman

Record # 788-01-1993







788-01-1993

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

SUPPORTING DETAILS: UNCOMMON OR RARE SPECIES/HIGH NUMBERS

CBC Name _____ Date _____ Compiler James L. Randolph
Observer writing this account & date James L. Randolph SONY 6/8 99

SPECIES BLACK HEADED GROSBIRD NUMBER, AGE, SEX ADULT ONE ♀ FEMALE
Distance from bird(s) Approx 25' Relative size of bird SLIGHTLY SMALLER THAN ROSE BREASTED GROSBIRD

HEAD & NECK (Describe forehead, crown, auricular, malar region, median line, etc.)
STRIPED CROWN GRASSHOPPER BILL

EYE & LORES (Describe supercilium, ring, stripe, color, etc.)
STRONG REDDISH UPPER AREA OF EYE

UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES _____

LEGS & FEET _____

UPPERPARTS (Describe nape, back, rump, upper tail coverts, etc.)

UNDERPARTS (Describe throat, belly, side, flanks, crissum, etc.)

BREAST YELLOW/ORANGE LIGHTLY STRIPED

RECTRICES (Describe inner, middle, outer tail feathers, color pattern, shape, etc.)

WING (Describe color, length, shape, linings, bars, coverts, leading & trailing edges, etc.) SEE PHOTOS - UNDERSIDE OF WING PALE COLORED IN FLIGHT

VOCALIZATION NONE OBSERVED

BEHAVIOR FEEDING RT BACKYARD FEEDER CONTAINING
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEEDS - FED RT FEEDER AND ON GROUND

Date of observation MAY 6/7 Time 7:15 PM 7:45 PM Weather DRY Sky CLEAR
6:30 AM 12:00 noon

Duration of observation TOTAL OF APPROX 2 Hrs Bird - Sun orientation RIGHT BACKLIT &

Exact location NEAR TR 490 & SR 2005 - LENOVOO AREA Frontal lighting _____

Habitat BACK YARD Other observers MARTINE RANDOLPH - BRIGITA MARZO

NEAR WOODS ROAD Optical equipment 7X50 BINOCULARS

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS 300mm Nikon lens on camera

BIRD EXHIBITS BEHAVIOR TYPICAL OF ROSE BREASTED GROSBIRD

AN ACCOMPANYING SKETCH OR PHOTOGRAPH CAN BE MOST HELPFUL

NOTE: LENOVOO AREA IS LOCATED IN LIMESTONE TOWNSHIP - CLAYTON C.
APPROX 2 miles SOUTH OF EXIT 10 I-80 AND 1 MILE EAST
OF RT 66

SEE PHOTOS
ENCLOSURE
PHOTOS

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 2 of 2

Species: **Black-headed Grosbeak (Pheucticus melanocephalus)**Date of Sighting: **6 May 1993 to 7 May 1993**Location: **LIMESTONE TWP**County: **CLARION**Observer(s): **James Randolph**Date of Submission: **1993**Submitted by: **James Randolph**Written Description: **YES** Photo: **YES** Specimen: **NO**Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas							X	
N. Pulcinella							XX	
E. Kwater							XX	
R. Ickes							XX	
G. McWilliams							XX	
P. Schwalbe							XX	
J. Skinner							XX	
TOTALS							7	
DECISION							X	

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

J. Haas

Date:

5-6-94