

Submission Date	2012-10-07 20:38:36
Observer's Name	Nancy Andersen
E-mail	nancya@neo.rr.com
Phone	814-459-1444
Observer's Address	Street Address: 343 Superior Avenue City: Erie State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 16505 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Kenneth Andersen
Species (Common Name)	Black-headed Grosbeak
Species (Scientific Name)	Pheucticus melanocephalus
Number of individuals	1
Have you submitted this to eBird?	Yes
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	From plumage clues it was a first fall male
Observation Date and Time	09-24-2012 10:00 AM
County	Erie
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Erie
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Presque Isle State Park, Sidewalk Trail, from Bayside entrance
GPS coordinates of sighting	+42 9' 46-13 -80 5' 29.33
Habitat	Open scrub marsh on one side of trail, deciduous woods on the other side
Distance to bird	27 meters
Viewing conditions	high clouds, but bright conditions; clear view of the bird
Optical equipment used	10x Atlas and 10x Stokes binoculars
Description	The bird flew to a perch up the trail from us. Our immediate reaction on seeing the bird was "Grosbeak. Oh! Not a RBGR. It's a BHGR!" The bill was large, with a very dark upper mandible. The head was patterned, with a dark cheek patch bordered by light supercilium and submoustachial stripe. The breast was a deep,

rich butterscotch color; there was no streaking observed on the breast. Back was brown. The bird sat still for over half a minute, then flew away. Red underwing color was not seen in the bird's flight. We are familiar with this species from our years in NM, and feel comfortable with the ID.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

The bird was first seen in flight as it flew to a bare branch (twig-size) at the top of a bush. It perched calmly on the branch, giving us a profile and head on look. After a little over a half minute, the bird flew and we did not re-locate it.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

We recognized this bird as a BHGR, but worked to make it RBGR, because that is the expected species. But, #1 the breast color was too rich for female or first fall male RBGR, #2 the breast lacked streaking, #3 the very dark upper mandible, and #4 seeing no red winglinings.

Discussion - anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

We both have over four decades of birding experience and are biologists with advanced degrees. One of us has taught ornithology and field birding courses; the other studied ornithology and did research in the field.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes, because we are familiar with BHGR and ruled out RBGR by plumage, etc.

During

Peterson, 2010; iPod Peterson

After

Nat.l Geographic, Dunn, 2008, Crossley

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