

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR UTAH BIRD RECORDS CODING ONLY.

Lat/long _____ Record type _____ Serial No. _____
Habitat _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name Black-tailed Gnatcatcher
Scientific Name Poliophtila melanura
Obs. date 12 June 1984 Time(s) 1140-1230
Duration of obs. several times - 1 to 5 min. each
Distance from bird ~ 50 ft (observed from truck)
Light conditions good, sidelight
Optical equip. 7 x 35 binocs
Photo equip. SLR 35mm camera with 300 mm lens
Notes made at time of sighting ✓ Date report prepared 19 June 1984
Notes made later from memory _____

Weather at time of this observation.
Clear, 90°, wind SW at 10-20.

Prior weather and number of days since change
Several days of similar weather.

Locality
Beaver Dam Wash, Washington Co.,
about 1/4 mile south of Lytle
Ranch.

Enter number of birds in each category.	GENDER(S)	AGES(S)	PLUMAGE(S)	PHOTO(S)
Total number observed. <u>2 observed,</u> <u>3rd heard calling</u>	Males <u>1</u> Females <u>1</u> ♀ or Imms _____ Unknowns <u>1</u>	Adults <u>2</u> Juv/Imms _____ 2/3 yr birds _____ Unknowns <u>1</u>	Breeding <u>✓</u> Transition _____ Eclipse _____ Dark phase _____ Winter _____ Light ph. _____ Other _____	Available <u>✓</u> Enclosed _____

Description of bird: Size, colors, all field marks OBSERVED. - Unique features of this individual, if any.

Subject birds were ~~about~~ similar in size & shape to Blue-gray Gnatcatchers: length about 4 inches; long (~1 1/2") thin tail; thin bill (2/4") with a very slightly decurved upper mandible; white eye ring; dark eye; dark legs; no wing bars. Identification was based on the following marks.

Male: Top of head above the eye including forehead, crown, & nape was black. Dorsal surface of tail was black except for white outer rectrices. Ventral tail surface appeared all black. Back, rump, & wing coverts were bluish-gray. Primaries & secondaries were dark brown to blackish. Underparts (chin, throat, breast, belly) were whitish.

Female: Forehead, crown, nape, back, rump, & wings were bluish-brown. Tail same as male's. Underparts (chin, breast, belly) were whitish.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

none.

Variations from expected field marks.

none, although white is often observed on outer rectrices of ventral tail surface.

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Male - Black on head is restricted to a small band on forehead. Ventral tail surface is conspicuously white - outer $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of rectrices.

Female: Outer $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of ventral tail surface is white. Plumage on upperparts are usually much more bluish. than ♀ Black-tail.

Voice of Blue-gray is different: zee or zee-zoo.

Behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one. Any interaction between birds?

Female was carrying material to finish nest. She would be at nest 1-2 minutes, then fly off for 5-10 minutes. Male would sit in top of nest tree while female was at nest, then fly off with her. Both birds were very nervous acting, constantly flicking their tails from side to side. A 3rd bird was heard calling nearby once when the pair was at the nest. A cowbird came into the nest once & was quickly chased off.

Habitat at this location. Adjacent or near by habitat, if significant.

Nest was located in a catclaw acacia (Acacia greggii). Nearby vegetation included creosote bush, bursage, & desert willow.

Describe bird's song or sounds. A high pitched zee, chew, chew, chew - repeated several times.

Print reporter's name, address, phone number.

Steven Hedges
889 S. Cedar Knolls W.
Cedar City, UT 84720
586-3420

Signature

Steven Hedges

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

I am very familiar with both of these species.

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

Bob Douglas

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature