

9-1985a

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Black-tailed Gnatcatcher Scientific Name: *Poliophtila melanura*

Date: 9 March 1985 Time: ~ 1500 Length of time observed: 5 min.

Number: 1 Age: adult Sex: male

Location: Beaver Dam Wash, Washington Co., at the south end of
Lytle Ranch.

Lat/long: 19 Elevation (if known): 2800 ft.

Distance to bird: 15 feet Light conditions: sun to observers backs

Optical equipment: 8x40 binocs

Weather: Partly cloudy, 75°, light wind.

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Bird was identical in size & shape to blue-gray gnatcatcher. Length was about 4 to 4 1/2 inches, including a long slender tail of about 2 inches. The crown & forehead were black with the cap extending down to the eye. The back, nape, & wings were blue-gray. The tail was entirely black except for the outer half of the outer most tail feather, which was white. The underparts were whitish. The bill was black, about 1/2 inch long, slender, & slightly decurved. The eye was black & surrounded by a narrow white eyering.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: a loud chee-chee, repeated several times. somewhat reminiscent of sawick wren scold.

Behavior: Bird was moving around in the lower branches of a creosote. Tail was held up like a wren & flipped from side to side.

Habitat: Creosote brush with scattered catclaw acacia, cholla, & burro bush.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:
Bl/wh-gray gnatcatcher lacks black cap & has white on the outer 3 tail feathers. Call is different, more nasal.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:
Very familiar with both species.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
none.

Significance of record in this area or the state:
2nd confirmed sighting for state

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting X notes made later from memory

Observer: Steven Hedges Signature: Steven Hedges

Address: 889 S. Cedar Knolls W.
Cedar City, UT 84720

Other observers who independently identified this bird:
Ella Sorensen
VJ Hedges

Date prepared: 13 March 1985

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120

9-1985

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Black-tailed Gnatcatcher Scientific Name: *Polioptila melanura*

Date: 11 May 1985 Time: 0730 Length of time observed: 5 min.

Number: 2 Age: adults Sex: 1 ♂, 1 ♀

Location: side drainage adjacent to Beaver Dam Wash, about
½ mile north of Lytle Ranch.

Latilong: 19 Elevation (if known): 2900 ft.

Distance to bird: 10 to 40 feet, Light conditions: good

Optical equipment: too close to use binocs.

Weather: clear, 70°

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Birds were about 4 inches with long slender tails which they cocked up like wrens & twitched sideways. Tails were black except for the outside edge of outer feather which was white. Underparts of body were white. Bill dark, slender, & slightly decurved.

Male: Crown black down to eye. Prominent white eye ring. Back blue-gray. Wings blackish.

Female: Upper parts brown. Wings dark brown. White eye ring.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: *buzzy call, similar to Bewick Wren.*

Behavior: *Birds were flitting in creosote bushes.*

Habitat: *creosote & catclaw acacia.*

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: underside of tail is mostly white. Male lacks black cap. Call note is different, more nasal.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Very familiar with both species.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

none

Significance of record in this area or the state: *2nd pair in Wash this Spring.*

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting ___ notes made later from memory ___

Observer: *Steven Hedges* Signature: *Steven Hedges*

Address: *889 S. Cedar Knolls W.
Cedar City, UT. 84720*

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Clyde Morris, Joelle Buffa, Joe Lee, Richard Sorensen

Date prepared: *23 May 1985*

Return this form to: *Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120*