

SUBMIT REPORT TO:

UTAH FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

0-1984-09

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

Latilong _____ Record type _____ Serial No. 84018
 Habitat _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name Black-tailed Gnatcatcher
 Scientific Name Poliioptila melanura
 Obs. date 6-26-84 Time(s) 4:00 PM
 Duration of obs. about 1 minute.
 Distance from bird 20-30 feet
 Light conditions excellent--no clouds
 Optical equip. 7 x 50 binoculars
 Photo equip. none
 Notes made at time of sighting _____
 Notes made later from memory x Date report prepared 7-2-84

Weather at time of this observation.
Clear and hot. Rained later in the afternoon.

Prior weather and number of days since change
Clear. Six months since last precip.

Locality
About 1/4 mile south of Lytle's Ranch on the Beaver Dam Wash, Washington County.

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

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

The bird was small (4-5 inches long), gray on back, white below with a black cap. It had a tiny white eye-ring.

The tail was all black except the outer tail feathers which were white the full length of the tail.

Received a call about 2½ weeks before this sighting from Dr. Bob Bond informing me that he had observed a male and a female of this species building a nest in the Beaver Dam Wash area and gave me directions on how to find the tree. He indicated that he had taken about two rolls of film which would be verification of a state record. When I arrived at the location he had described I found what may have been the nest in terms of the description of the the exact location in the mesquite tree he had given, but no birds. The nest was empty. After walking around the immediate vicinity and not seeing or hearing it, I resorted to the taped recording as I walked north along the road toward Lytle's ranchhouse. About half way between the cattleguard and the corrals where I had parked the gnatcatcher responded to the call. I was then able to see all the salient fieldmarks. Later on in the afternoon I went to Welcome Spring and saw two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers which provided good comparisons in terms of call notes and fieldmarks. The habitat the two species were in was quite different--low desert scrub and desert wash for the Black-tailed, and live oak, pinion-juniper habitat for the Blue-gray.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

none

Variations from expected field marks.

none

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

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher--Tail has much more white in it, lighter cap and the voice was very different from the species I observed.

Black-Capped Gnatcatcher--Much more white in tail; also a bit out of range since it enters No. America only in southeastern Arizona.

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

Responded to taped calls (from Natl. Geographic record) by flitting through the mesquite. It would stop near the top of a bush, fan its tail as it was held straight down facing me and give a call similar to that on the tape. No other interaction between birds was observed. It disappeared into the brush after about a minute.

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

Mesquite and desert shrub; riparian nearby.

Describe bird's song or sounds.

Buzzy che notes very similar to the recording.

Print reporter's name, address, phone number.

Merrill Webb
1063 East 400 North
Orem, Utah 84057

Signature *Merrill Webb*

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

First time with this one--many observations of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature