

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.

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

Blue-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.
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Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Ella Sorensen
VJ Hedges

Date prepared: 13 March 1985

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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