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## Black-throated Gray Warbler in Knox County, Nebraska

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The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (NOURC) considers Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*) to be Accidental in Nebraska (NOURC 2017). Silcock and Jorgensen (2020) list a total of seven accepted records with only two occurring in fall: an adult male at the Hyannis Cemetery, Grant Co., 01 Sep 2002 (Brogie 2003) and a female at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., 07 Sep 2001 (Silcock 2001).

The following documents the third Nebraska fall record for Black-throated Gray Warbler, the third record east of the Nebraska Panhandle, the first for northeast Nebraska, and the only NOURC accepted record (#2338) in the last decade.

On the morning of 14 September 2021 while birding along 876 Road/Creek Road (0.9 mile west of its intersection with 521 Avenue) I encountered a small feeding group of Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*). It is well known that migrating small songbirds are often found associating with chickadee flocks. One of the first birds I noted was above me in a honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) that then flew directly across the road into a Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*). I instantly recognized the species as a Black-throated Gray Warbler. It had a very white breast with black side streaking, grayish back with white wing bars, dark cap, black and white face with distinct horizontal wide black stripe running through the eye. Knowing the rare status of this species in Nebraska, I attempted to photograph the bird. I could not focus on the bird before it flew into the deeper wooded area south of the road. I searched the area for over an hour when once again I heard chickadees vocalizing to the west and north of the road. I walked about 50 yards west and then played the Sibley Birds audio of Black-throated Gray Warbler calls. I noticed movement in a small Eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) along the fence line and the warbler appeared near the top of the tree. I was able to get some distant but identifiable photos of the bird (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S94652182>). The bird then disappeared down into the cedar and was not seen again.

Looking at the photographs, the white throat and small black chest line indicates that the bird was either a female or first-year male. The characteristic yellow spot in front of the eye is barely discernable in one photograph.

Ed M. Brogie and I spent several hours the next morning searching for the bird without success.

### Literature Cited:

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