



Black-throated Gray Warbler at Evanston's Harbert Park. 5 May 1998. Photo by Eric Walters.

Black-throated Gray Warbler in Evanston: Sixth State Record

On the afternoon of 4 May, 1998, I decided to check Evanston's Harbert Park for migrants. It didn't seem promising due to the lack of migrants elsewhere, but I had extra time so I decided to see what was there.

I parked at the south end and headed north through the woods along the North Shore Canal. Until I neared the north end of the woods, I had seen a grand total of zero birds. Finally, I began hearing a few Ruby-crowned Kinglets in the trees around me. While I was searching through the small kinglet flock, I heard what I thought was a Yellow-rumped Warbler chip note above me. When I looked up, however, I was shocked to see the very striking face pattern of a Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)! With that bird in mind, I looked for the yellow super loreal spot. Upon seeing that spot, I was convinced that I was watching the handsome western warbler.

This first spring male was seen by many observers through 8 May, and was also photographed. Unfortunately, it couldn't be found for the Spring Bird Count on 9 May despite very thorough searching. The warbler sometimes was difficult to locate, and it generally traveled within flocks of other species.

This bird represents the sixth state record (Bohlen 1989). Coincidentally, the last Black-throated Gray Warbler in Illinois (2–10 May 1984) was just a few miles farther south along the canal from Harbert Park.

Literature Cited

Bohlen, H.D. 1989. *The Birds of Illinois*. University of Indiana Press. Bloomington, IN.

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