

BANDING WORKSHEET FOR WESTERN BIRDS

Species Key for Gnatcatchers of the Genus Polioptila

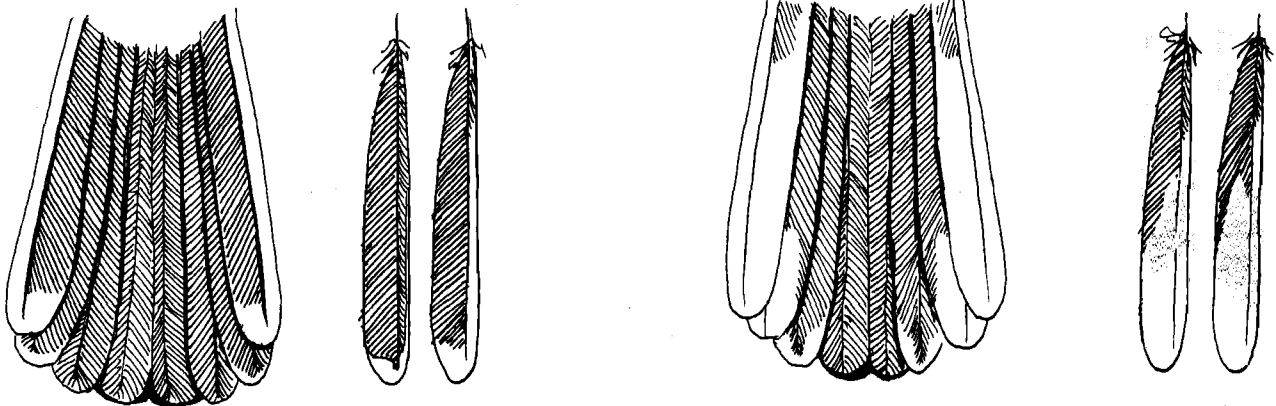
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (<u>Polioptila melanura</u>)	A.O.U. No. 752
	Band Size: 0-X
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (<u>Polioptila caerulea</u>)	A.O.U. No. 751
	Band Size: 0-X
Black-capped Gnatcatcher (<u>Polioptila nigriceps</u>)	A.O.U. No. 753-1
	Band Size: 0-X

This key is adapted from the more inclusive one of Phillips, Speich, and Harrison (1973) which considered two additional species not occurring north of Mexico.

- 1a. Tail, including its sides, mostly black; the black covers the basal half, or more, of the inner webs of all the rectrices (those of the outer pairs in some races broadly tipped with white, and outer web may be white). Both sexes, in fresh plumage with back more or less washed with brownish. Lores and superciliary region without white (Male is black crowned in alternate plumage, i.e., mid- or late March to August). Deserts and arid areas of Mexico and adjacent United States plus coastal southern CaliforniaP. melanura (Black-tailed gnatcatcher)
- 1b. Tail largely white laterally; the white covers most or all of the exposed part of both webs of the outer pair of rectrices and the usually distal half or more of the next pair. Male with back always plain (neutral or gull) gray, without any obvious brown tinge. United States, southern Canada, and (at least in winter) whole of Mexico; winters south and east to El Salvador.....P. caerulea (Blue-gray Gnatcatcher) (except in southern Arizona and western Mexico where P. nigriceps may also occur. In these areas, use remainder of this key (2a and 2b, on reserve side) to separate these two species. Banders working further south should use the full key (Phillips, et. al., 1973) as additional species could be encountered.)

Figure 1.

Figure 2.



Source: Phillips, A. R., S. Speich, and W. Harrison. 1973. Black-capped Gnatcatcher, a new breeding bird for the United States: with a key to the North American species of Polioptila. Auk, 90:257-262.

- 2a. Female strongly washed, in fresh plumage (Fall & Winter), with brown above and with buffy brownish on flanks posteriorly. Male with crown wholly black in alternate plumage (gray in basic plumage). Wing more rounded than in northern races of caerulea: primary no. 8 (third from outside) shorter than no. 4 (seventh from outside); latter about 1 mm or less, shorter than no. 7. Primary 9 extends beyond tip of 10 (outer most) for usually 12-14.5 mm (rarely up to 15 or more). Tail more graduated, the longest rectrices usually exceeding the outer pair by 9 to 12 mm, never (?) less than 8 mm, when unworn. Lowlands and coastal mts. of western Mexico, South to Colima, (or possibly Michoacan?), and recently in extreme southern Arizona.....
.....P. nigriceps (Black-capped Gnatcatcher)
- 2b. Neither sex with obvious brown wash anywhere, nor with crown wholly nor largely black; if any black is present on the head (i.e., alternate-plumaged male), it is limited to the forehead and a narrow extension of this as a line extending back along the sides of the crown (above the eyes), to form a thin U. Wing, (in Western Mexico and North) more pointed; primary no. 8 usually much longer than no. 4; latter 2.5 to 4 mm. shorter than no. 7. Primary 9 extends beyond tip of 10 for (usually) 16.3 to 20 mm, rarely 16 and always (?) more than 15.0 mm. Tail less graduated, usually for 5.5 to 8 mm (rarely over 9.5) when unworn. U.S., Southern Canada, and (at least in Winter) whole of Mexico; winters south and east to El Salvador....
.....P. caerulea

... Banders' Marketplace

Banding Pliers: These 6½" long-nose pliers have holes bored in the jaws to fit standard band sizes, so as to make it quite easy to get a perfect fit. This avoids the danger of lapped bands, which may injure the leg if not corrected, and which are troublesome to remove even with good tools. There is a split pin on the top of the plier which enables the user to open a band evenly with one operation. A spring on the side of the plier provides tension to keep the opened band in the plier while handling the bird. While new banders may welcome such pliers to increase their confidence in attaching the band, many experienced banders have shown interest in the pliers in order to handle birds more rapidly at peak times.

Pliers for band sizes 0, 1, 1B, & 1A	\$7.50
Pliers for band sizes 2 & 3	\$7.50
Pliers for band size 3A	\$6.50

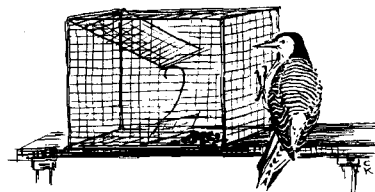
These prices include postage within the U.S. Orders should be sent to Roger N. MacDonald, 850 Main Street, Lynnfield, MA 01940.

Banding Supplies: Bleitz Wildlife Foundation has available a new listing of the more than 100 styles, sizes, colors and types of Mist Nets, Portable Poles, Pesola Scales, etc., which are available from the Foundation. Reprints of "Mist Nets and Their Use" are also available. Bleitz Wildlife Foundation, 5334 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, CA 90027.

Potter Traps: 16-gauge ½" x 1" welded mesh. \$4.50 per cell. One cell: 8" x 8" x 8"; 2-cell: 8" x 8" x 16"; 3-cell 8" x 8" x 21"; 4-cell: 8" x 16" x 16". Postpaid east of Mississippi River. Permit number requested. **Order from:** Walter K. Bigger, Trout Run, PA 17771.

Advertising in *North American Bird Bander* is available to interested firms providing services and products related to birds and bird banding. Combined EBBA/WBBA circulation 1200! For information and current prices, **please contact:** Robert J. Pantle, Advertising Manager (EBBA), R.D. #1, Candor, NY 13743, or Eleanor L. Radke, Editor (WBBA), P.O. Box 446, Cave Creek, AZ 85331.

Back Issues of EBBA News (Vol 1 through 39, No. 1). In celebration of the Bicentennial festivities, EBBA has reduced its back-issue prices. Vol. 1 through 17: \$1.25* per issue. Please note — we have few issues left of the earlier volumes. Vol. 18 through 27: 50* per issue. Vol. 28 through 33: 75* per issue. Vol. 34 through 37: \$1.50* per issue. Vol. 38, No. 1: \$1.50*. Vol. 38, No. 2: \$2.25 (*scarce*). Vol. 38, No. 3: \$1.50*. Vol. 38, No. 4: \$2.25 (*scarce*). Vol. 39, No. 1 (*Bicentennial Issue*), \$1.00*. Those marked with an asterisk (*) are net prices and appropriate postage for the entire order must be added. **Order from:** Mrs. Roger W. Foy, Box 164, Ship Bottom, NJ 08008.



Editor's Note: Other than EBBA- or WBBA-sponsored products, there will not be any free advertising in *North American Bird Bander*. Both associations have adopted the same price schedule for ads. It is suggested that those organizations or individuals wishing to advertise in *North American Bird Bander*, that are situated in the western part of the United States, contact Eleanor Radke, Editor (WBBA). Those in the eastern part of the United States should contact Robert J. Pantle, Advertising Manager of EBBA. Those in the Middle West should select one of the above persons to contact, but not both.

Thank you