

2004-34

**LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
REPORT FORM**

1. **Common and scientific name:** Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage:** 2 adults
3. **Locality: State (Louisiana) Parish:** Plaquemines  
**Exact Location:** Across Hwy. 23 from Fort Jackson
4. **Date(s) seen:** January 2, 2004
5. **Time(s) of day seen:** (A) 9:50-10:10; 10:45 (B) 10:30-10:50
6. **Reporting observer and address:** Phillip Wallace  
4515 S. Prieur St.  
New Orleans, LA 70125-5044
7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:** Christie Riehl
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird:** None
9. **Light conditions:** Fair to good
10. **Optical equipment:** Zeiss 10x40 bins
11. **Distance to the bird:** 20-30 yds
12. **Duration of observation:** Approximately 10 minutes viewing time for each.
13. **Habitat (general and specific):** Baccaris scrub and tallow trees near artificial ponds.
14. **Behavior:** Resting, feeding, investigating screech owl tape and Brown-crested tape.  
Heard both birds calling before we saw them.
15. **Description:**  
Both birds were obvious *Myiarchus* flycatchers. Grayish-brown upperparts with erect brown crests; rufous in the primaries. Pale yellow underparts from the midbreast to the undertail coverts; (B) seemed to have slightly brighter yellow than (A). Pale grayish-white upper breast and throat. Tail brown and rufous. In (B) we saw the tail pattern with rufous going all the way to the tip of the tail without the dark J pattern at the tail tip shown by Ash-throated. Both birds showed all-dark bills. The bill of (A) seemed smaller than (B), but the bill of (B) did not seem to be the size of *magister*. The wings showed

two off-white or buffy wingbars. The birds were approximately 200 yards apart. After viewing the second bird for several minutes, Wallace went back to site of first bird and relocated it while Riehl stayed with the first bird. It's clear that there were two different individuals.

**16. Voice:** Both birds were very vocal, the first initially responding to a screech owl tape and the second calling spontaneously. The birds gave repeated sharp "whit" calls that were inflected upwards, nothing like the flat "pip" calls of Ash-throated. They were classic Brown-crested call notes. Both birds also gave a more complex "whittle" call in response to a Brown-crested tape.

**17. Similar species and how they were eliminated:** The call notes eliminate the other myiarchus flycatchers, and the tail pattern of (B) is another corroborating mark.

**18. Photographs?** None.

**19. Previous experience with this species:** I've seen several times in Louisiana and in Texas and Arizona.

**20. Aids used in identification:**

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: None

**21. This description written from:**   x   notes made during observation;  
           notes made after observation;            from memory.

**22. Are you positive of your identification?**   yes  

**23. Signature of reporter:**

**24. Date and time of writing this account:** January 9, 2004  
9:30 p.m.