

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: **FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER** *Tyrannus savanna*

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

Two: one adult male, one short-tailed bird likely an immature.

3. Parish: *Calcasieu*

Specific Locality: vicinity Hwy. 397 X Ward Line Road

4. Date(s) when observed: **19 December 2018**

5. Time(s) of day when observed: **12-12:15 PM; and very briefly at 2 PM.**

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Donna L. Dittmann and Steven W. Cardiff
City: 435 Pecan Drive, St. Gabriel
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):

NONE.

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s):

The birds were initially found by Irvin Louque on 17 December 2018. Seen by many other observers.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **Good but skies were overcast – so not the best lighting for photographs.**

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

10 X 42 and 10 x 50 Leica binoculars -good condition

11. Distance to bird(s): **As close as 30 ft. to perhaps 150 ft.**

12. Duration of observation: **approximately 30 minutes**

13. Habitat: **birds on utility wires, in fallow field with patches of tall weeds, and in line of trees (including tallows and hackberries) along Ward Line just south of the intersection with Hwy. 397.**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): **both birds were seen flycatching from wires, treetops, and from weed stalks. During brief driveby observation around 2 PM it was raining and the birds were sitting quietly on the utility wires.**

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species; body bulk, shape, proportions; bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*):

From the eBird account: Stakeout since 12/17, one adult with full tail, second bird with asymmetrical tail short on one side and longer on other side. Birds were associating with each other and were located about 0.2 mi. south of the intersection, spending time perched and foraging from utility wires, tops of tall Chinese tallow trees, and in tall weeds in fallow field on east side of road. Photos by DLD and others. Passed by again around 2 PM when it was raining and both birds were quietly sitting next to each other on the utility wires.

In general, slender, long-tailed 'black' and white kingbirds – more slender than other black and white species such as Eastern. Cap glossy black, collar white, and back pale gray; under parts white; tail long (immature) or exceptionally long (adult male). Subspecies of Fork-tailed Flycatcher are distinguished by upper part coloration and, in adult males, primary pattern. Pale back coloration and white collar as well as shape of primaries of the adult male best suggests the northern subspecies *monachus*. Comparison to the later Fabacher Road individual clearly supports that is a different individual.

16. Voice: **Not heard.**

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Nothing similar! See also eBird account written shortly after observation:
<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S50824137>

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Yes, photos by DLD

19. Previous experience with this species:

DLD has seen this species twice in LA (wintering bird at Diamond, spring bird at Grand Isle); SWC once in LA (spring, Grand Isle) and both have seen in Panama

and Peru.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

Zimmer, J. T. 1937. Studies of Peruvian Birds: NOTES ON THE GENERA MUSCIVORA, TYRANNUS, EMPIDONOMUS AND SIRYSTES, WITH FURTHER NOTES ON KNIPOLEGUS No. 962. American Museum Novitates: 1-11.

Pyle, P., Howell, S.N.G., Yunick, R.P., and DeSante, D.F. 1987. Identification guide to North American passerines. Slate Creek Press, Bolinas, CA.

a. at time of observation:

. **None.**

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	Same day to eBird.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:

YES.

23. Date: **completed on 8 February 2019**

Time:

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

YES

If yes, may we include your name with the report? _____