

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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: *Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Tyrannus savana*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): *two, sex and age unknown, but differentiated by different tail lengths*
3. Locality: Parish: Calcasieu
Specific Locality: ca. 0.5-1 mi south and east of LA-397 x Ward Line Rd intersection
4. Date(s) when observed: *5 & 6 January 2019*
5. Time(s) of day when observed: *0915 CST (05 Jan) and 1120-1150 CST (6 Jan)*
6. Reporting observer and address: *Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA*
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): *Paul Conover and Dave Patton (5 Jan), and Meribeth Huizinga (6 Jan)*
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): *Many observers; found by Irvin Louque on 17 Dec 2018, I think*
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): *From poor (looking east, into early-mid AM sunshine on 5 Jan) to excellent (looking north, away from late AM sunshine on 6 Jan)*
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): *Swarovski 8x30 binos (good condition), Nikon AF-S 300 mm 1:4 D camera lens (good condition)*
11. Distance to bird(s): *10-50 m*

12. Duration of observation: about 2 min (5 Jan), followed by about 30 min (6 Jan)
13. Habitat: weedy, old field and powerline (5 Jan), and fenceline of short-grass pasture (6 Jan)
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): perching (5 Jan), actively foraging (6 Jan)
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): Tyrannids, nearly identical to each other, except that one bird had one outer tail feather that was broken or regrowing, only about half as long as its other. Generally similar to Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in body size, tail length, and bill size/proportion (and open habitat/habits). Black crown contrasting with white throat, breast, belly and nape. Back and edges of lesser (and interior of median?) secondary coverts pale gray. Greater secondary coverts, primaries and secondaries blackish. Tail very long, and black, except for white outer vein on basal halves of outer tail feathers.
16. Voice: I did not hear any vocalizations
17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Eastern Kingbird, superficially similar in contrasting black upperparts and white underparts, obviously ruled out by extraordinary, long tail. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher similar in tail length, but (also obviously) ruled out by black crown, essentially all-black tail, lack of warm tones on underparts, etc.
18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Photos by R. Dobbs, attached
19. Previous experience with this species: extensive experience with austral migrant populations
20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
- a. at time of observation: none
- b. after observation: none
21. This description is written from: X notes made during the observation (notes attached?); notes made after the observation (date:); memory; X images taken during the observation.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: Yes

23. Date: 11 Feb 2019 Time: 1045 CST

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? Yes

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

Bird 1 (1 photo; 5 Jan 2019)



Bird 2 (4 photos; 6 Jan 2019)



