

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

Species: Brown-crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus tyrannulus*

Number: 1

Locality: Scrub woods, across Hwy 23 from Ft. Jackson, near Triumph, Plaquemines Par., Louisiana

Date: January 31, 1999

Time: 1445-1515h

Reporter: David P. Muth, 1617 Charlton Dr., N.O., La. 70122

With Reporter: Phillip Wallace, Dan Purrington

Other Observers: None at the time; others reported seeing what was presumably this bird thereafter.

Light: good

Optics: Zeiss Dialyt 10x40

Distance: within 50 feet

Duration: 5 minutes over 30 minutes

Habitat: scrubby woodland

Behavior: see notes

Description: see notes

Voice: see notes

Similar Species: other species eliminated by tail pattern and voice.

Photos: none

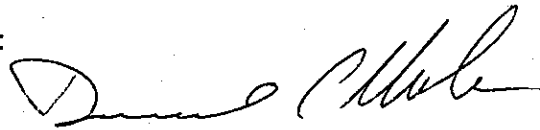
Previous Experience: moderate

Aids: tape recording of various myiarchus calls

Circumstance of Description: see notes

Confidence Level: I am certain of the identification.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David P. Muth". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the "Signature:" label.

David P. Muth

Date: notes made 1/31/99 at home after sighting

1-31-99

DAW, RDP, PW

(notes p. 2.)

Vehicle, including 2 trips to Myiarchus woods at Ft. Teahran - a.m. - upriver segment; p.m. - 1400-1500, section across from Ft. Teahran. -
Ft. Woods - lower rd - Venice Marina woods, bird's, ATFL woods, chess (no gulls), 3 woodlots along highway strip. Highlight PERE-BWHA, BCFE, EABL-several,

Brown-crowned Flycatcher

Found along newly bulldozed wide dirt road about 1/4 mile below Fort entrance - both sides, 1445-1515 p.m.

- I first glimpsed it fly across "rd." - sat 3 seconds for several minutes, unsuccessfully - though ~~sure~~ I heard it call softly twice - "whup, whup" - did not know what species.
- As we were going up - I spotted it low in veg. below dirt road. PW got on it, then it flew. Intense search - we were about to give up again. Then it began calling - whup, whup, whup - louder - still could not parse call - not rolling purr of ATFL nor yet last "whup or whup" of BCFE.
- close pursuit - got several looks. Bird looked large enough for "cooperi"; bird appeared pretty big in flight, exp. yellow and gray fairly bright for ATFL.
- I left to get vehicle and topic of Myiarchus - meantime, PW & RDP apparently got decent view of understory pattern.
- when I returned I was playing tape on vehicle as I collected eggs - the bird changed the car, crest up and alert - searching. I got out, played tape and heard a vigorous response, began, in this period. I got decent view of understory. Joined by PW & RDP - we played both BCFE & ATFL - ignored latter - then moved on and actually responded with partial song to latter!

1-21-97 cond-

description BLFL:

typical appearance with yellow belly, gray breast & throat, brown cap and back, rufous in flight feathers & tail.

details:

bill - black - fairly long - $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ as wide at base as long - looked to be about GCFL length - would have been quite robust for ATFL - but definitely in cooperi - not MACRER - range.

head - cap brown - peaked - "crest" raised when excited - nape pale grayish - throat light gray - face gray-brown

back - brown, slightly paler brown nape -

wings - upper dark brown with narrow pale whitish edgings to coverts (~~on~~ 2 wing bars) and "tertiaries" - edgings of tertials fairly narrow and uniform - confined to outer vane (unlike GCFL).

tail - rufous with dusky brown ~~edges~~^{on} to outer vanes (did not note if brown spilled over shaft to inner vane). inner vane rufous to tip in outermost rectrices.

underparts - throat and upper breast gray (throat slightly paler than breast) - intermediate tone between remembered ATFL (pale) and GCFL - darker. belly fairly bright lemon-yellow - line of demarcation between yellow and gray fairly clean w/o obvious bleed.

voice - called several times giving a soft, pleasing whup - ranging from near sotto voce to fairly loud. In response to tone gave much more "typical" whups or whist, not as sharp as GCFL "whups" - but loud - also "sing" "whist-whist-whist".

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

1. **COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAME:** Brown-crested Flycatcher
2. **AGE, SEX, NUMBER, GENERAL PLUMAGE(S):** one (presumed male)
3. **LOCALITY:** brush across from Fort Jackson

PARISH: Plaquemines
4. **DATE AND TIME OF OBSERVATION:** 31 January 1999, 2:40-3:30 p.m.
5. **REPORTING OBSERVER AND ADDRESS:**
Robert D. Purrington, 4700 Bissonet Dr., Metairie, LA 70003
6. **OTHER OBSERVERS ACCOMPANYING REPORTER WHO IDENTIFIED THE BIRD(S):** David Muth and Phillip Wallace
7. **OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THE BIRD(S):**
8. **LIGHT CONDITIONS (RELATIVE TO OBSERVER):** partly cloudy with mostly continuous sunshine; bird in all directions relative to observers and sun direction
9. **OPTICAL EQUIPMENT:** 10x40 Zeiss binoculars
10. **DISTANCE TO BIRD:** 15-40 yards
11. **DURATION OF OBSERVATION:** 45-50 minutes, off and on
12. **HABITAT:** mixed brush and small trees. Understory consisting of elderberry, baccaris (sp?), etc. Trees mostly chinese tallow.
13. **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF OBSERVATION; BEHAVIOR:** Muth initially saw the bird, which we search for for about 30 minutes. Upon re-finding it, we watched it--for about 20 minutes--as it frequently perched in small bare trees, once in a live oak, vocalizing several times. At one point, after many attempts, Wallace and I were able to see the diagnostic tail pattern. Finally, Muth retrieved a tape from the car which was played for 15 minutes off and on. The bird reacted vigorously to the taped song of Brown-crested, flying all around us, vocalizing, flicking its tail, etc. Showed no reaction to Ash-throated tape. It showed some response to my simulated W. Screech Owl call.

14. **DESCRIPTION OF BIRD:** Large-ish flycatcher (Great-crested size), dull light brownish with fairly pale yellow underparts, gray throat and face, brownish crown, fairly heavy black bill, rufous on wings, rufous tail with outer web of outer rectrices darker rufous-brown extending to tip of tail but not bleeding into "j-like" pattern. Strong white edging to tertials (4?).

15. **VOCALIZATION(S), IF ANY:** The bird gave a sharp "whik!" or "wheel!", lacking any buzzy quality, several times. In response to Brown-crested tape, it gave an agitated "whik-whik-whik" and seemed to be giving part of Brown-crested song.

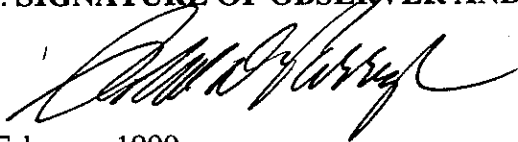
16. **SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW ELIMINATED:** Ash-throated eliminated by tail pattern, but also by size and bill size, though in a very robust Ash-throated this judgement might be suspect. Also by differential response to taped calls and songs. Great-crested (unrecorded in LA in winter) eliminated by vocalization, but virtually eliminated by bill color.

17. **RESOURCES USED IN IDENTIFICATION (FIELD GUIDES, ETC.):** no guides, but taped calls used.

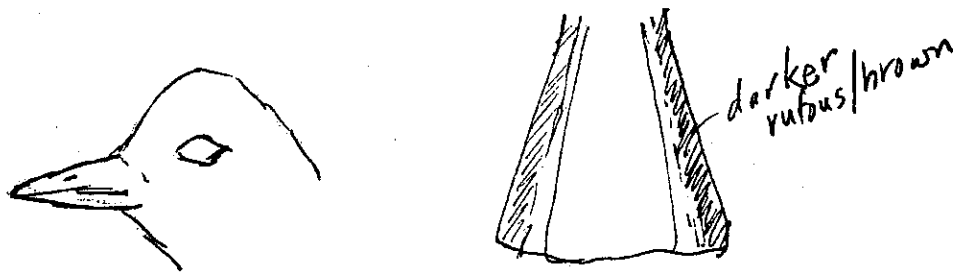
18. **PHOTOGRAPHY, IF ANY (BY WHOM):** none(!)

19. **PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH SPECIES:** About 6-8 in Louisiana over 30+ years, also in Big Bend and SE Arizona

20. **SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER AND DATE:**



1 February 1999



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REPORT FORM**

1. **Common and scientific name:** Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage:** 1
3. **Locality: State (Louisiana) Parish: Plaquemines**
Exact Location: Across Hwy. 23 from Fort Jackson
4. **Date(s) seen:** January 31, 1999
5. **Time(s) of day seen:** 2:45-3:30 p.m.
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:** David Muth discovered the bird. Also seen and identified by Dan Purrington.
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird:** David L'Hoste, inter alia
9. **Light conditions:** Light was excellent for most of the observation.
10. **Optical equipment:** Zeiss 10 x 40 bins
11. **Distance to the bird:** 15 - 30 yards
12. **Duration of observation:** 45 minutes
13. **Habitat (general and specific):** In scrub, tallow tree and Live Oak
14. **Behavior:** Perched and flying. Feeding.
15. **Description:**
Size and General Impression Obvious *Myiarchus*.
Head Gray face; conspicuous brown crest.
Upper Parts Olive-brown back; more brown than olive.
Wings Not noted
Underparts Pale gray upper breast and throat; pale yellow lower breast.
Tail Undertail pattern showed pale rufous-brown color extending to tip of tail; not cut off from tail tip by dark brown as in Ash-throated.
Bill Large, all-dark bill.

Eye Not noted
Legs Not noted

16. **Voice:** Call note a rich, deep "whit". Responded vigorously to Brown-crested tape.
Gave a partial "song" in addition to the "whit" note.

17. **Similar species and how they were eliminated:** Great-crested eliminated by color of underparts, call note, and by all-dark bill. Ash-throated eliminated by tail pattern and call note.

18. **Photographs?** None.

19. **Previous experience with this species:** Seen several times in LA and out west.

20. **Aids used in identification:**

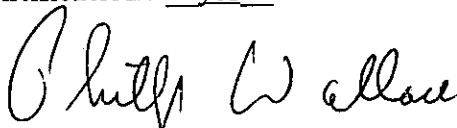
a) at time of observation: none

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:** March 15, 1999
9:00 p.m.

light excellent for most
part.

Muddy road across
Don Noble of FLS
Woods

1/31/99

Fort Jackson → Myiarchus wood's

2:45 - 3:30

^{Myiarchus} Brown-crested Flycatcher

15-30 yards

Olive-brown back (more brown than olive)

Conspicuous brown crest

Large, dk - dark bill.

Pale gray breast and ~~throat~~ throat.

Call note rich, deep "whet".

Responded vigorously to Brown-crested Fly.

Gave partial "song" in addition to "whet"
call.

Tail pattern (undertail) - rufous-brown (pale)
extended to tail tip.

Fairly long-tailed

Gray - face

3ft - 15ft off ground

Followed tree and Live Oak

Notes written immediately after viewing.

Discovered by David Math.

F'd by Muth, William Burroughs