

Louisiana Ornithological Society's

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: SHINY COWBIRD MOLOTHRUS BONARIENSIS
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 2 ♂♂ IN ADULT PLUMAGE
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: JEFFERSON PARISH, GRAND ISLE
(parish)
NEAR N END OF WILLOW LANE
(specific locality)
4. Date(s) when observed: 25 APRIL 1992
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 13:00h (CDT)
6. Reporting observer and address: NANCY L. NEWFIELD
CASA COLIBRI
3016 45TH STREET
METairie, LA 70001
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
NONE
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
OTHER BIRDERs WERE ON THE ISLAND BUT I CANNOT ATTEST
TO SIGHTINGS BY ANY OTHERS.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): BRIGHT OVERCAST - SUN OBSCURED BUT LIGHT WAS GOOD.
THE BIRDS WERE IN THE OPEN (i.e. NO SHADING)
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
9X35 BAUSCH & LOMB BINOCULARS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION
11. Distance to bird(s):
25 FEET
12. Duration of observation:
5 MINUTES
13. Habitat:
RESIDENTIAL DRIVEWAY ADJACENT TO BRUSHY FIELD

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

THESE BIRDS WERE FEEDING ON SCATTERED SEED IN COMPANY WITH NUMEROUS DICKCISELS, INDIGO BUNTINGS, BLUE GROSBEAKS, BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS, AND HOUSE SPARROWS. THIS WAS NOT AN "ORIGINAL" SIGHTING. I WAS SEARCHING FOR THE INDIVIDUAL THAT HAD BEEN REPORTED EARLIER IN THE WEEK FROM A NEARBY FIELD BY AL SMALLER & JOSEF FELDNER.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen;

include if possibly: 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): $7\frac{1}{2}$ INCHES IN TOTAL LENGTH, SHAPE SIMILAR TO THAT OF A BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD (DIRECT COMPARISON) BUT WITH SLIGHTLY LONGER BILL & TAIL. ALL FEATHERS APPEAR BLACK. THE FEATHERS OF THE HEAD, NECK, & UPPER BACK ARE GLOSSY (GLITTERING) WHILE REMAINDER OF THE PLUMAGE WAS PLAIN BLACK. EYE: DARK. BILL & LEGS: BLACKISH. THE NECK LACKS THE "INFLATED" APPEARANCE CHARACTERISTIC OF BRONZED COWBIRD.

16. Voice:

NOT HEARD

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

SMALLER THAN ANY U.S. GRACKLE; SLIGHTLY SMALLER & SHINIER THAN RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD, ALSO LACKED RED SHOULDER; BILL SHORTER & THICKER THAN STARLING, BILL DARK NOT YELLOW; LACKED BROWN HEAD OF BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD; LACKED RED EYE & INFLATED RUFF OF BRONZED COWBIRD;

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

NO

MALE RUSTY BREWEE'S BLACKBIRDS. DARK EYES ELIMINATES

19. Previous experience with this species:

2-4 INDIVIDUALS (♂♂) AT FT. MORGAN, AL ON 22 APRIL 1992

EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE WITH SIMILAR SPECIES - BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD,

BRONZED COWBIRD, RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD, STARLING, COMMON GRACKLE,

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE, GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE, BREWEE'S BLACKBIRD, RUSTY BLACKBIRD

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

a. at time of observation:

THE BIRDS OF SOUTH AMERICA (VOL. I) BY ROBERT S. RIDGELY, GUY TUDOR

b. after observation:

BIRDS OF THE WEST INDIES BY JAMES BOND

A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF COLOMBIA BY STEVEN L. HILTYE

WILLIAM L. BROWN

21. This description is written from: ☒ notes made during the observation ☐ notes made after the observation (date: _____); ☐ memory.

RECORDED ON MICRO CASSETTE

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

23. Signature of reporter:

Nancy L. Newfield (date) 11 June 1992 (time) 12:32h (CDT)

