

# 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](mailto:zoiseaux@lusfiber.net)> .

1. English and Scientific names: Broad-billed Hummingbird *Cyananthus latirostris*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
1 male in adult plumage.
3. Louisiana - Parish: Jefferson Parish  
Specific Locality: Marrero, woodlot at Ames Boulevard and Ehret Road  
Coordinates: 29.8658423, -90.1158446
4. Date(s) when observed: 02-17-2016
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 09:45
6. Reporting observer and address:  
  
Nancy L Newfield  
Casa Colibrí  
3016 45th Street  
Metairie, LA 70001  
504-338-3882
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): James W Beck [who originally discovered this bird], Linda Kingsland, Joan Garvey, and Chris Cruthirds.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Sun over head [more or less] under somewhat open canopy. Most trees are deciduous in this woodlot and most had lost a lot of their leaves. A few were already

beginning to leaf out. Light was good, but we were looking up and the bird was backlit some of the time.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski EL Swarovision 10x42 binocular.

11. Distance to bird(s): 20 to 35 feet.

12. Duration of observation: 10 to 15 minutes, somewhat discontinuously as the bird moved around from one perch to another.

13. Habitat: Open mixed woodland with a smattering of Live Oak [*Quercus virginiana*], Hackberry [*Celtis laevigata*], and Box Elder [*Acer negundo*]. The understory was somewhat sparse in some places, but I identified Blackberry [*Rubus* sp] , Elderberry [Sambucus simpsonii?], and Poison Ivy [*Toxicodendron radicans*] along with several exotic plants that I did not know. I cannot estimate the extent of the woodlot, but it is more than 4 or 5 acres and it abuts Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): The bird was very vocal, frequently giving its characteristic 'ji dit' call, sometimes stringing several together. I observed him flying in a somewhat jerky manner - as is characteristic of the species. A few times, he remained perched for about 3-4 minutes, but he seemed to like to keep moving. One time, we watched him seeming to bathe on leaves, only the leaves were dry. Several times, he gleaned from branches. We could not see if he was taking anything or what it might be. Most of the time, he stayed well beneath or within the canopy, usually at a height of 15 to 25 feet. I did not see him descend below 15 feet.

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*): This bird is a medium-sized hummingbird, roughly similar in size to a Buff-bellied Hummingbird [*Amazilia yucatanensis*], maybe 4 to 4 ¼ inches in total length. The crown, nape, back and rump are glittering bronze green. The throat is glittering blue, shading to a glittering green on the remainder of the underparts as far as the legs. The undertail is mostly white. The wings are dull black and the deeply notched tail is black with a bluish gloss. The long, heavy bill is intensely red with a dusky distal end.

A cursory internet search for hybrids involving this species came up empty, but there was a discussion with images of a putative hybrid that was *thought* to be a cross between Broad-billed Hummingbird and Violet-crowned Hummingbird [*Amazilia violiceps*]. This potential hybrid was all the more interesting insofar as neither Broad-billed nor Violet-

crowned Hummingbirds occur commonly in the area where this bird was discovered, Boyce-Thompson Arboretum State Park. That bird was mostly white below with large green 'spangles' on the sides of the breast [see: [LBRC BBLH 02-17-2016.docx](#)].

16. Voice: a harsh 'ji dit', given frequently. Others in the group of observers mentioned hearing him sing while perched. However, my own hearing is not sufficiently acute to experience the song though I saw his bill opening and closing while others were hearing the song.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Nothing else in North America, north of Mexico, is really close in appearance. At a very brief glimpse, because of its black-tipped red bill, Buff-bellied Hummingbird [*Amazilia yucatanensis*] comes to mind, but that species is mostly green on the throat and upper breast and its notched tail is rusty colored, not black and deeply notched.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): image taken by Joan M Garvey at the time of our observation, used with permission for an eBird submission is attached.

19. Previous experience with this species: I have seen and have banded hundreds of Broad-billed in Arizona in the late 1980s. Since 1990, when the first Broad-billed was documented in Louisiana at my house, I have banded about 15 of them and I have also observed several others that I could not catch.

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

National Geographic *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*

*The Sibley Guide to Birds*

21. This description is written from:

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

22. Are you positive of your identification? Yes.

*Nancy L Newfield*

23. Date: 03/11/2016  
Time:

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.