

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

1. Name: Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*
2. Number: one
3. Locality: Louisiana: Plaquemines Parish; across highway 23 from Ft. Jackson, along the first road upriver from fort main entrance; at rear of road, just past the pond to the right in a narrow track to the right, just a few feet from the road
4. Date: 29 December 2001 Venice CBC
5. Time: 1430 CST; 1435 CST; off and on through 1500 CST, maybe later
6. Reporting observer: B. Mac. Myers, III 5660 Ada Pl.--rear apt. New Orleans, LA 70124
7. Accompanying observer: Phillip A. Wallace; later Mark Swan and Chas. Lyon
8. Independent observers: on 21 Jan 02, Myers, Wallace, R.D. Purrington, and David P. Muth located a BCFL within 30 feet of the earlier sighting, almost certainly the same bird
9. Light conditions: variable, occasionally glary, but at times excellent
10. Optics: 10x40 Zeiss good condition
11. Distance: as close as 30 feet
12. Duration: off and on for more than a half hour
13. Habitat: a grove of hackberry trees with surrounding scrub
14. Behavior: originally came in to E. Screech-Owl tape; responded to same a least twice more after flying away; also responded to tape of BCFL; on several occasions it came flying in, or came closer, especially in response to the whup or whurp call on the tape
15. Description: an obvious *Myiarchus*, fairly large flycatcher with brownish upperparts, wingbars, gray breast, yellow belly, rufous in wings and tail. It was a rather bright individual, the yellow brighter than typical on ATFL, and the gray of breast was slightly darker than typical on ATFL and rather abruptly separated from yellow of belly. The bill was black with a little brown at base of lower mandible; it was fairly long and deep and rather broad viewed from below; probably beyond ATFL or at upper limits. The light edging of the inner secondaries were approximately equal to one another. I had one good

look at the right outer rectrix; it was rufous with a moderately broad dark shaft streak from base to tip, just right for BCFL.

16. Voice: after much harassment (with tapes), the bird gave a soft sotto voce *whurp* call at least twice.

17. Similar species: ATFL and GCFL have different rectrix pattern, different call as well as at least some slight differences in pattern and size/structure

18. Photographs: I took a couple (not processed yet) which may be suggestive, but will probably not be diagnostic; Swan and Lyon shot videotape which should be pretty good. On the resighting, some more photos were taken.

19. Previous experience: several BCFL and ATFL in LA, many in w. U.S.; many GCFL; some experience with other tropical myiarchids

20. Aids: none at the time; later reviewed various guides as well as Cardiff/Dittmann article

21. Description made from notes taken in field, copies enclosed

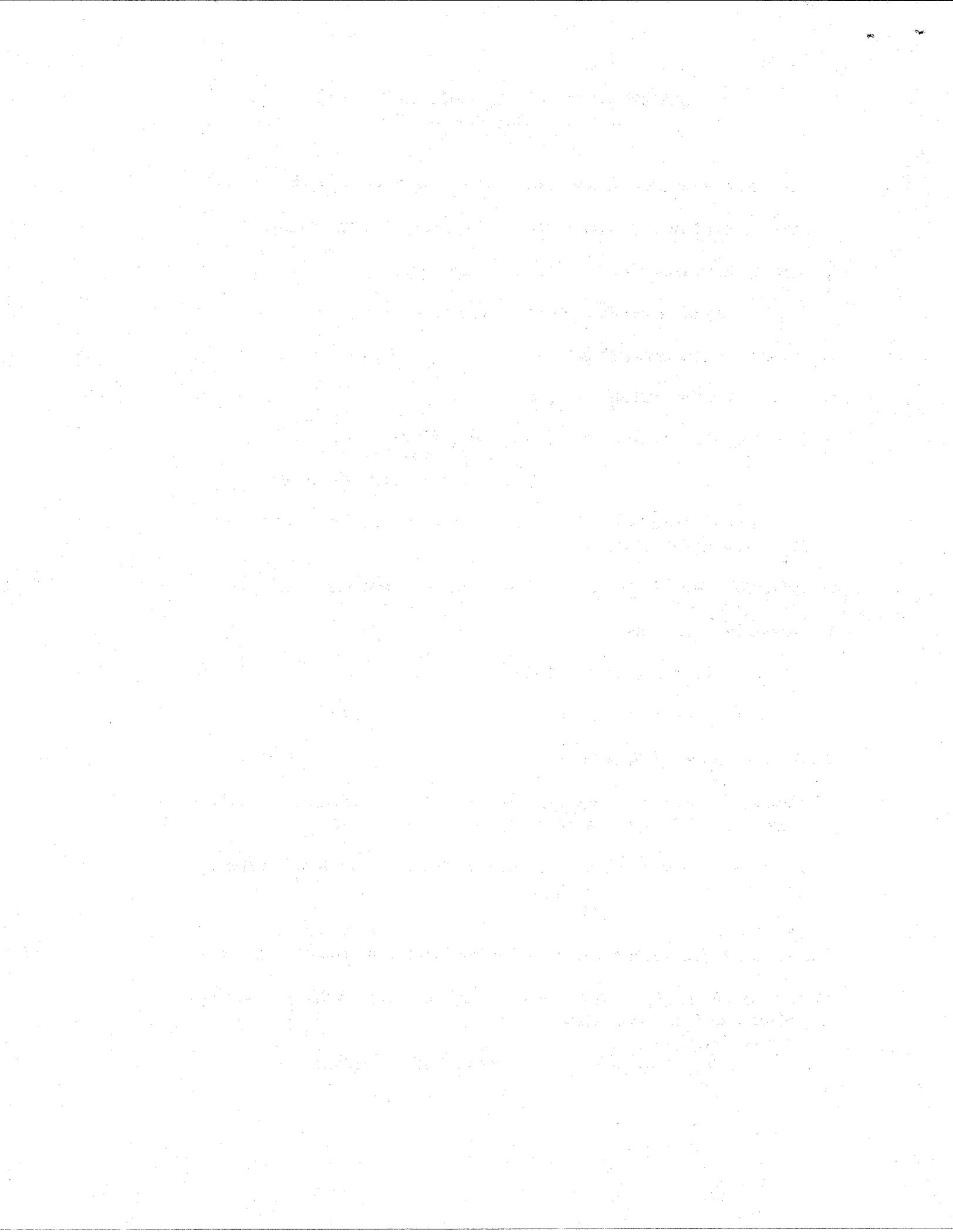
22. Yes, I'm positive of the identification

23. Signature: *B. Mac. Myers III*

24. Date of account: 23 Jan. 2002; Time: 1447 CST

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1. **Common and scientific name:** Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage:** 1 adult plumage
3. **Locality: State (Louisiana) Parish: Plaquemines**
Exact Location: Across Hwy 23 from Fort Jackson
4. **Date(s) seen:** December 29, 2001
5. **Time(s) of day seen:** 2:20 - 3:00 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:** Mac Myers, Charlie Lyon, Mark Swan
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird:** None
9. **Light conditions:** Good
10. **Optical equipment:** Zeiss 10 x 40 bins
11. **Distance to the bird:** 15-30 feet
12. **Duration of observation:** 23 minutes
13. **Habitat (general and specific):** A little copse of trees between two lakes below Buras Canal; Chinese Tallow, hackberry, and Chinaberry trees.
14. **Behavior:** Perched, flying, feeding. Responded vigorously to Brown-crested tape; very agitated.
15. **Description:**
Size and General Impression Typical size of Great-crested and Brown-crested. Obvious *myiarchus*.
Head Head brown and gray, brown above eye and gray below, with gray extending back toward the nape. Crest usually erect.
Upper Parts Brownish-gray back.
Wings Darker brown than back with broad whitish fringe on tertials.



Underparts Fairly bright yellow on breast and belly to undertail coverts - brighter than typical Ash-throated, but certainly not in the range of Great-crested. Pale gray upper breast and throat.

Tail Retrix pattern clearly seen. Rufous extended all the way to the tip of the retrices. The dark brown color did not curve around at the tip forming the typical J pattern of an Ash-throated.

Bill Large, all dark bill with strong hook at the tip.

Eye Dark

Legs Dark gray or black.

16. **Voice:** Gave low, soft "whirp" call several times. Didn't sound like the more typical sharp "whit" call to me.

17. **Similar species and how they were eliminated:** Ash-throated eliminated by the retrix pattern.

18. **Photographs?** Swan and Lyon got video. Myers got photos.

19. **Previous experience with this species:** I've seen in Texas and Arizona and several times in LA.

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:**

John W. Allen

24. **Date and time of writing this account:** December 31, 2001
5:30 p.m.

