

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 (presumably an adult)
3. Parish: Plaquemines Parish  
Specific Locality: North of Trigg Lane and west of River Road in the town of Port Sulphur.
4. Date(s) when observed: 29 March 2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 11:10 AM
6. Reporting observer and address: 249 Richland Avenue, Apt #20, Baton Rouge, LA, 70806
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Stephanie Wheeler
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): None that I am aware of (there were no subsequent reports on eBird).
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Good. Nearly midday sun, but the bird was well lit and we were primarily able to keep the sun at our backs.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski EL 8.5x42 binoculars and a Canon 60D with a 400mm f/5.6L
11. Distance to bird(s): Perhaps as close as 15-20 m.
12. Duration of observation: 25 minutes
13. Habitat: The bird was first heard calling on the northern edge of a small grove of trees that were sufficiently dense to be a closed forest. However, after the bird came into playback, it retreated northward into a much more open, weedy, and brushy habitat, with only scattered taller trees.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): It generally seemed wary and shy. Although it was initially calling unsolicited, it vocally responded strongly to playback, but did not stay long when it did come into playback or remained

partially/mostly concealed beyond the closer layer of vegetation. If it weren't for the fact that it continued to vocalize throughout the observation, we certainly would have lost track of it quickly. The bird was not witnessed exhibiting any notable behavior aside from perching and calling, although presumably it was continuously on the lookout for food.

It seems likely that this could be the same individual that I found very close by at the same exact date the previous year (29 March 2014); documentation of that bird was submitted to the LBRC. That Brown-crested Flycatcher was only >0.3 miles to the NW of this bird's present location. Photos of the 2014 bird can be found here:  
<<https://www.flickr.com/photos/chrysoptera/13529906165/>>

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*): A large *Myiarchus* flycatcher with a longish tail, distinct bushy-crested appearance, gray throat and upper chest, and pale lemony yellow bellow and undertail coverts. The bird had a long, but thick, all-black bill. It was brownish on the crest, but more brown-olive throughout the remainder of the upperparts. Otherwise, it had drab off-white wingbars that were not crisp as well as obvious pale edging to the tertials. The pale tertial edging, however, did not seem to be as contrasty as that of Great Crested Flycatcher, but consisted of white edging against the dark brown (not black) outer webbing of the tertails. The edges of the primaries on the folded wing were a contrasty rusty coloration. I was not able to obtain a satisfactory look at the color/pattern on the underside of the tail.

16. Voice: The bird was frequently heard giving its characteristic low, clear, strong, snappy, and rising "whip" call note. This can be heard on three separate occasions in the attached (and very poor) video documentation. The bird also gave a number of additional call notes in response to the playback (some of which can be heard on a separate video segment), including a series of short grating notes and a brief trilled call.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Eliminated from all other North American *Myiarchus* flycatchers by the distinctive and oft repeated call note. Visually, it can be distinguished from the similarly plumaged Ash-throated Flycatcher by its much larger and heavier bill and from Great Crested Flycatcher by the drabber yellow underparts, drabber tertial contrast, as well as by the larger, all-black bill.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes (photos and audio) – both by Cameron Rutt. The video was taken solely to capture the bird's vocalizations.

19. Previous experience with this species: Yes, in both Arizona and Texas, as well as the aforementioned bird last year at Port Sulphur.

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

a. at time of observation: None

b. after observation: Sibley

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? If not, explain: Yes

23. Date: 9 May 2015

Time: 11:00 PM

Click to see [Video](#)

