

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> .

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 “adult”](#)
3. Parish: [St. Bernard](#)
Specific Locality: [Chalmette Battlefield, NE corner](#)
4. Date(s) when observed: [27 January 2016](#)
5. Time(s) of day when observed: [1:20 pm](#)
6. Reporting observer and address: [102 Goodwood Cir., Lafayette, LA 70508](#)
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): [none](#)
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): [Apparently found during Orleans CBC on 26 Dec 2015. Had been relocated by many observers up through 17 Jan 2017 \(fide eBird, including with photos although diagnostic tail pattern not quite visible\), and this record appears to be the last submitted to eBird or LBRC.](#)
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): [overcast, soft even light](#)
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): [10 x 42 Swarovski EL binoculars, good condition](#)
11. Distance to bird(s): [20 – 50 ft](#)
12. Duration of observation: [20 minutes](#)

13. Habitat: deciduous successional forest fragment semi flooded, I think with a lot of tallow

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Not very cooperative. After spending about 30 minutes of looking in the woods area just to the east including east of the cemetery, trying occasional playback, I eventually found the bird near the center of the woody patch on the north side of the main battlefield. It came into view several times over 20 minutes, briefly responding to playback. It gave “whip” vocalizations periodically, sometimes several in reasonably quick succession, then with long pauses. Most of this time the bird was not visible and staying low in the woods about 30+ away from the edge.

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*): Big *Myiarchus* with big bill (although I find this really subjective in comparison to Ash-throated). Only saw from the side and above, not the under part of the tail. Repeatedly gave quick call lower and more rolling than Ash-throated Flycatcher. This isn't a very satisfying description and it wasn't a very satisfying view. Most of my identification is based on the call note, and the fact that a Brown-crested Flycatcher had been documented in this area repeatedly for about a month.

16. Voice: “Whip”, somewhat more liquid and slightly lower than Ash-throated. Was able to compare in real time to playback of both species. It only ever called softly, not loudly or excitedly.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Ash-throated would be the most likely alternative, and most of my identification here is based on a vocalization given repeatedly (although periodically) over a period of about 20 minutes.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): None

19. Previous experience with this species: Very limited. Never seen before in Louisiana. I am somewhat familiar with Amazonian subspecies, having found the first documented records at the Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragmentation Project near Manaus, but that is a different subspecies. No *Myiarchus* is straight-forward and *M. tyrannulus* is complicated by substantial variation across subspecies. Even so, I had just spend a CBC season locating and revisiting several Ash-throated Flycatchers, including hearing their vocalizations, so there was a recent real-world comparison against which I could compare

the Chalmette bird.

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

a. at time of observation: [Audubon app](#)

b. after observation: [N.A. Sibley 1st edition, National Geographic 3rd Ed.](#)

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?	No (I was entering into eBird from my phone, and #15 is largely re-written from those notes)
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation. At what date?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory	
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images	

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: [Pretty certain. I admit to not having much experience with the calls, and unfortunately was not able to get a useful recording. It certainly sounded different than Ash-throated based on real-time comparisons against recordings and recent experience.](#)

23. Date: [26 August 2016](#)

Time: [10:55 am](#)

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page? [Yes](#)

If yes, may we include your name with the report? [Yes](#)