

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: *Brown-crested Flycatcher, Myiarchus tyrannulus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): *One*
3. Locality: Parish: *St. Bernard*
Specific Locality: *Chalmette Battlefield (Jean Lafitte Natl. Historic Park and Preserve), between battlefield proper and cemetery*
4. Date(s) when observed: *5 January 2017*
5. Time(s) of day when observed: *1050 CST*
6. Reporting observer and address: *Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA*
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): *Danny Dobbs*
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): *Glenn Ousset et al. This is a continuing bird since mid-December 2016, and poss/prob returning bird from previous (2015-2016) winter.*
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): *Excellent; bird was observed with my back to sun, under bright light of sunny/clear day*
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): *Swarovski 8x30 binos (good condition), Nikon AF-S 300 mm 1:4 D camera lens (good condition)*
11. Distance to bird(s): *10 m*
12. Duration of observation: *5 min, viewed well for 1-2 min, plus another 2-3 min of bird around, calling occas.*
13. Habitat: *deciduous woods, at least partially flooded, near border with wet*

scrubby/grassy veg, near park-like setting with scattered live oaks (cemetery) and large lawn (battlefield)

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Came in to screech-owl/mobbing playback, perching high and investigating, somewhat agitated, calling occasionally.

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): Obvious *Myiarchus* flycatcher (cardinal-sized passerine, grayish-brown above, grayish head and breast, yellowish belly, much rufous in flight feathers), superficially similar to Ash-throated and Great Crested flycatchers—see below.

16. Voice: Distinct “whip” calls with notable liquid quality

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): All other North American *Myiarchus* eliminated by distinctive, liquid “whip” call. Ash-throated “pik” call harsher, and lacks “thick” or “liquid” quality of Brown-crested. (Note: Ash-throated calls heard earlier in morning at Bayou Sauvage.)

Ash-throated also eliminated by larger/heavier bill, bushier crest, and lack of dark tips on outer rectrices (dark of outer rectrices did not curve across to cover feather tips, as on Ash-throated—unfortunately there is a branch obscuring this field mark in the attached photos). Great Crested also eliminated by paler gray head, paler yellow belly, and lack of pale spot at base of mandible (did not see tertials well enough to describe). Dusky-capped also eliminated by its lack of rufous in tail (and other characters).

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Photo by Robert C. Dobbs, attached

19. Previous experience with this species: Much experience with Great Crested, and with all western North American *Myiarchus* from years in western U.S./desert southwest

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

a. at time of observation: Audio recordings

b. after observation: Nat Geo Complete Birds of N Am

21. This description is written from: X notes made during the observation (____notes attached?); ____notes made after the observation (date:____); ____memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: Yes

23. Date: 10 Feb 2017 Time: 0915 CST

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



