

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 individual in adult plumage
3. Parish: St. Bernard

Specific Locality: Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery, 1 Battlefield Rd, Chalmette, LA 70043

4. Date(s) when observed:

21 December 2019

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

2:00 p.m.

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Jennifer O. Coulson
City: Pearl River
State: Louisiana

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):

Christie Riehl, John Nelson, David Booth

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):

Starting in the winter of 2015-2016, a Brown-crested Flycatcher has wintered at this location. Each winter a single bird has been observed, photographed and sometimes recorded by multiple birders. For example, Van Remsen observed, heard and photographed one on 13 December 2017. There is no way of knowing whether this is the same individual that has wintered here over the years. I believe that Joan Garvey submitted photos of the *Myiarchus* flycatcher she observed there in 2019.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

Visibility relatively poor for daylight hours. While the bird was perched nearby the sky was overcast, producing low lighting conditions, and the bird was backlit. Mist turning to light rain did not help with optical equipment, which kept fogging up.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Binoculars: Eagle Optics "Ranger" 10 x 50 mm, good

Camera: Nikon P1000

11. Distance to bird(s):

No more than 25 feet

12. Duration of observation:

2 min

13. Habitat:

mowed grass lawn, shallow drainage ditch lined with baldcypress trees and a few scattered small trees nearby, including a young live oak

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

The *Myiarchus* flycatcher was first observed perched in baldcypress, then it flew to a young live oak tree where we relocated it, and I photographed it.

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, crested, *Myiarchus* flycatcher having a notably large, stout bill that was wide (ca. 1 cm wide) at the base. Bill hooked at tip. The substantial crest was dull brown, as was the nape, back, and shoulders. The primaries and secondaries were mostly brown except that the leading edges of the secondaries were edged with off-white and the primaries showed a narrow rufous edging. The wings had two fairly prominent pale buffy wingbars. The throat and upper breast were light gray and the abdomen was yellow centrally to pale, grayish yellow to the sides. The undertail coverts were pale yellow. The undertail was rufous centrally and flanked with darkish brown on outer rectrices.

16. Voice: Did not vocalize but flew toward playback of Brown-crested Flycatcher.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Great Crested Flycatcher is similar in size but its ventral plumage is much brighter: the throat and upper breast are dark gray, the abdomen is bright yellow and the undertail is bright rufous. The Great Crested Flycatcher's bill is thinner, not as wide at the base, and the lower mandible usually shows more yellowish or pinkish at the base. The individual we observed was distinguished from Great Crested Flycatcher by duller underparts and more extensively dark lower mandible. The yellow of its abdomen was intermediate in brightness between Great Crested and Ash-throated Flycatcher. The bill of this individual was wider at base than Ash-throated Flycatcher. My photo of the undersurface of the rectrices shows a pattern like Brown-crested and not Ash-throated: the latter has a darkish brown bar across the bottom while it is interrupted in the former by a rufous middle.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Photos by Jennifer O. Coulson, attached.

19. Previous experience with this species:

I have seen this species in southeast Arizona and south Texas. I have also seen and heard what was probably this same individual at the battlefield in previous years.

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

a. at time of observation:

iBird PRO (birding app); *The Sibley Guide to Birds*

b. after observation:

Identification Guide to North American Birds, Part I, Peter Pyle

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:

To me, the exceedingly broad width of the base of the bill of this individual (shown in photograph) makes the identification definitively a Brown-crested Flycatcher.

23. Date: 2 July 2020

Time: 2:18 PM

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_____







