

# 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](mailto: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):  
One individual. Unknown age or sex, in Basic Plumage.

3. Parish: Orleans

Specific Locality: Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge, Ridge Trail

4. Date(s) when observed: December 31, 2019

5. Time(s) of day when observed: Observed while birding along the trail between 10:20 and 11:40 AM.

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Michael C. Mahoney
City: New Orleans
State: LA

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

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

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

Observed under clear skies, and the bird was observed multiple times with the sun behind the observer shining onto the bird.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Observed through well used Nikon 8x42 binoculars, photographed with 75-300 mm lens on Canon Rebel, and recorded on iPhone 8 voice memo application.

11. Distance to bird(s): Observed the bird from 5- 20 meters

12. Duration of observation: I knew the bird was in the area for 45 minutes, but I only watched the bird for about 25 minutes. It was fairly vocal and conspicuous.

13. Habitat: Found along the Ridge Trail flitting between midstory and canopy trees (Live Oak) and low in shrubby unidentified bushes. The site is an open bottom-land hardwood forest with dense understory bushes with adjacent fresh water marsh, cypress swamp, and man made levees.

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

When I first observed the bird, it was silent among a mix flock of Eastern Phoebes, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Northern Cardinals, Carolina Chickadees, and other wintering birds (including a Prairie Warbler). I snapped two photos of the flycatcher, before it took off towards the north. I followed the boardwalk around where I observed the bird for a second time vocalizing low in some shrubs adjacent to the boardwalk. I got excellent looks at the bird (5 m), but was unable to get a photo before it moved deeper into the thick. During this whole time (5-10 mins) it was vocalizing. It then flew up and off south towards more mature Live Oaks at the beginning of the boardwalk, where it continued to be vocal.

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*):

As I am not familiar with the species, I first identified the large Myiarchus as an Ash-throated Flycatcher because I knew there had been previous sightings of them in the area and that seemed more likely than a Brown-crested Flycatcher. The bird observed in the field was large, especially in comparison to the Northern Cardinals that were in the area. It had yellow belly feathers, and while it was a little washed out, it was nowhere as pale as the breast feathers of the Ash-throated Flycatchers depicted in the Sibley field guide. Listening to the voice of the bird on the Merlin app, I was also surprised how much the bird sounded like the Brown-crested Flycatcher recordings, but because I was unfamiliar with both of the birds vocalizations, I did not make a call on voice alone.

16. Voice: The bird made a sharp quick ascending, then sharply descending "preep" call that it repeated over multiple minutes.

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

I eliminated Great-crested Flycatcher because I am familiar with their vocalizations, and I made an assumption that it would be unusual to see the bird in this area based on the known phenology of the species. While I did not think the bird I observed in the field was as pale as some of the Ash-throated Flycatchers I have seen before, I was hesitant to call the bird a Brown-crested Flycatcher as it was less likely, based on known species distributions. After uploading photos and vocalizations to eBird, Steven Cardiff recommended I change the species from previously reported Ash-throated Flycatcher to Brown-crested Flycatcher based on the bill proportions and the recorded vocalizations.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes. Photos will be attached below, and recording can be found at: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S62811161>

19. Previous experience with this species: No previous experience identifying Brown-crested Flycatchers, which is why I was hesitant to ID it as one in the first place.

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

a. at time of observation: Merlin online Bird ID app for vocalizations, and Sibley Birds of Eastern United States.

b. after observation: Sibley Birds of North America (second edition) and Steve Cardiff via eBird

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 type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:

I feel confident in this ID, based mostly on my review of voices of Brown-crested Flycatchers post-hoc and the recommendation of Steve Cardiff.

23. Date: 01//2/2020

Time: 09:45 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





