

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:

26 December 2020

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

4:00 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):

Thomas Coulson, Christopher Esposito

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. This is likely a continuing bird.

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

Visibility was fair. The sky was clear and sunny, but the bird was perched in mottled shade and sun and then it moved to perch again in full shade, producing somewhat low lighting conditions.

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

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

Camera: Nikon CoolPix P1000, fairly new

11. Distance to bird(s):

30 feet

12. Duration of observation:

5 min

13. Habitat:

small forest stand of mostly baldcypress trees and shrubs and a nearby larger stand of mostly hackberry, also mowed grass and a shallow drainage ditch

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 observed perched in baldcypress for a couple of minutes. Then it flew, swooping down and then up to perch in another cypress at about the same height (30 feet above us). After perching for a few minutes, it flew away, flying alongside a treeline, vocalizing.

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*):

Seen mostly from below and also from one side. A large, crested, big-headed *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 brown and the face was light gray. 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 band on the leading edge. The wings had two fairly prominent pale buffy to cream-colored wingbars. The throat and upper breast were light gray and the abdomen was yellow centrally to grayish yellow on the sides. The undertail coverts were yellow. The undertail was rufous centrally and flanked with darkish brown on outer rectrices.

16. Voice: We searched for the Brown-crested Flycatcher but did not see it so I used playback of a Brown-crested Flycatcher recording. Then about 2 minutes later, we noticed it perched near where I had played the recording. We had walked away and then turned back, so I cannot be certain, but I believe that it flew to perch near where I had played the recording. When it flew off, giving a 'whip-whip-whip-whip' call when it was about 80 feet away.

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. Photos of the undertail pattern show a pattern like Brown-crested and not Ash-throated. ASFL typically has a darkish brown bar across the bottom while in BCFL it is interrupted by rufous in the 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) – referenced illustration, photos and recordings of vocalizations.

b. after observation:

The Sibley Guide to Birds

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

Steve N. G. Howell and Sophie Webb. 1994. Field identification of *Myiarchus* flycatchers in Mexico. *Cotinga* 2:20-25.

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: the large size, broad width of the base of the bill of this individual and the brighter-than-ASFL ventral plumage make the identification definitively a Brown-crested Flycatcher.

23. Date: 12 February 2021

Time: 3:57 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_____





