

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. Unknown sex. Unknown age. Basic plumage

3. Parish: Orleans

Specific Locality: Bayou Savage National Wildlife Refuge. Ridge Trail

4. Date(s) when observed:

January 5 2020

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

Between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m.

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: John Nelson

City: New Orleans

State:LA

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

Becky Lloyd

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

Joan Garvey and Mark Meunier

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): We observed the bird in bright and sunny conditions. Looking South-east with the sun shining directly on the bird, out in the open, with no shade.

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

Observed through fairly new 8 X 42 Vortex binoculars

11. Distance to bird(s):

40 to 50 feet

12. Duration of observation:

Watched the bird for 15 minutes.

13. Habitat:

Observed the bird in a lone leafless tree around 25 or 20 feet tall. The bird was flitting between the tree and dense bushes wrapped in dead vines. The surrounding area is a mix of bottomland hardwoods, fresh water marshes and cypress swamps

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

Soon upon entering the Ridge Trail boardwalk, we heard what we believed to be the vocalization of a Brown- crested Flycatcher. The bird was very vocal but stayed hidden in thick vegetation. As we walked along the board walk the bird would occasionally vocalize but remained hidden. About 50 yards from where the boardwalk ends on the levee road, it was heard again in the dense understory 15 or 20 beside the boardwalk. In response to BCFL playback, the bird flew up to top of small leafless tree and began vocalizing. It then began flying back and forth between the understory and the tree , before flying south east toward where had initially first heard it. Did not have a camera, but Becky was able to make a recording of the bird.

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*): The first thing observed as the bird landed in the tree was it's yellow belly and large size. Much larger than the Eastern Phoebe seen earlier on the trail. The bird's brown head feathers were raised and bushy. Viewed from the side its large bill was clearly visible. Darkish gray throat that extended onto breast area. Reddish brown tail feathers.

16. Voice:

Repeatedly made a "whip" call. From when we first entered the trail, until finally seen in the tree. Responded to "whip" playback as well.

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

The description above, basically is the same for the other large Myiarchus, Great Crested Flycatcher and Ash-throated Flycatcher. Having learned that a possible Brown-crested had been seen on the Ridge trail over the past few days, we spent some time listening to its vocalization. We were able to ID this bird by its vocalization. I am not an experienced enough birder to visually tell the difference between the Ash-throated and Brown-crested. We contacted Joan Garvey and Mark Meunier, who arrived about 15 minutes later. They re-found the bird, took photos, heard the vocalizations and confirmed our sighting.

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

The recording by Becky Lloyd and photos by Joan Garvey can be found: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S63070669> and: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S63053463>

19. Previous experience with this species:

Although other more experienced birders had shown me a Brown-crested in the field before, I have never identified this species before.

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

Before observation, Sibley Guide to Birds and listened to vocalizations on Sibley app, Merlin app, and iBird Pro.

a. at time of observation: Visuals and vocalizations on Sibley App and iBird App.

b. after observation:

Sibley Guide to Birds, Crossley ID Guide, and Kaufman Feels Guide to Birds of North America.

21. This description is written from:

notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?
notes made after the observation. At what date?
memory X
study of images

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

After hearing the vocals in the field while watching the bird and talking to more experienced birders after I am 95% sure of this ID. My own lack of experience as a birder is my only hesitation.

23. Date: 1/19/2020

Time: 10:30 p.m.

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_____