

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

3. Parish: Iberville

Specific Locality: Sherburne WMA—South Farm

4. Date(s) when observed: 3/16/2022

5. Time(s) of day when observed: mid-morning

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Esme Rosen
City: Baton Rouge
State: Louisiana

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): none unfortunately,

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): backlit or side lit throughout

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

11. Distance to bird(s): Very close

12. Duration of observation: 10 min

13. Habitat: Scrubby forest adjacent to a canal

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Came in to mob tape, but overall not very active, sitting in one or two spots the duration of the observation

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*): See similar species section. This was a rather large Myiarchus with a fair amount of rufous, extending to the base of the tail. The bill was on the short side, but bulky and heavy at the base, the coloration above was a rather pale grey with a contrasting brown crest and a pale yellow below.

16. Voice: Not observed, unfortunately

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): The main other contender is Ash-throated flycatcher. Great-crested can be easily eliminated by coloration – a great crested would be darker and brighter yellow, with a pale base to the bill and more rufous on the tail. The tail pattern is one of the best reasons for the identification - compared to Ash-throated, there is extensive rufous going down to the end of the tail and pretty much just a straight dark edge on the outer tail feather, not curved like Ash-throated. On the other hand, there is enough brown that it does not look like a Great-crested. The general appearance and structure is better for Brown-crested as well - it looks rather large headed with a noticeable neck, and the grey on the breast contrasts decently with the yellow belly. The main sticking point at first was the bill, but on further reflection it is actually better for Brown-crested. I just underestimated the degree of overlap in bill length between female cooperi Brown-crested and Ash-throated. But apparently, it is reasonably normal for (presumably female) Brown-crested to have a bill like this. And the overall bill structure is better for Brown-crested: at the base, it looks thicker and more triangular from the side, and from below we can see the base is notable thicker. Here are a couple Brown-crested Flycatchers from Texas with similar looking bills

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https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/100632781?_gl=1*vsccl*_ga*MTE4NTI4MjQ1LjE2NDIwM DA4MTc.*_ga_QR4NVXZ8BM*MTY0Nzk1MzQ4Ny4yLjEuMTY0Nzk1MzU0Mi41#_ga=2.188009256.1040084495.1647615242-118528245.1642000817

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Limited, have seen the species a few times in Arizona and Nevada and once in Plaquemines parish

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

The main

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: Identification suggested by Steve Cardiff based on photos. Also referred to National Geographic Guide, an article by Howell, and the Myiarchus identification page on the LOS website.

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	3/25
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: 99%, though I'm always uncomfortable when I fail to recognize a species in the field

23. Date: 4/23/22

Time: 6:30PM

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? __I guess_____

If yes, may we include your name with the report? _____Fine_____









