

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Hammond's Flycatcher *Empidonax hammondi*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1
3. Parish:
Jefferson
4. Specific Locality:
On Grand Isle behind the Sureway Supermarket. It was on the sand road not far after the fire hydrant. I was standing at this GPS point taking the photos on the east side of the road. 29.23614° N, 89.99436° W
5. Date(s) when observed: 9.18.2025
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 9:30am
7. Reporting observer: Kathy Rhodes
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
None.
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
None
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Bright light, note there was a light drizzle shortly before but had stopped before I parked behind Sureway.
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon Coolpix B600 camera and Nikon Prostaff 3s Binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): Maybe 50 feet
13. Duration of observation: 3-5 minutes until bird flew off
14. Habitat: Wooded Chenier

15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird flew in to mob tape, landed on low bare twigs, maybe 30-40 feet high It sat there until it flushed. No audio heard. Bird did not move around on it's perch.

16. 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):

Having never seen a Hammond's before it was not even in consideration in my mind. I felt it more a Yellow-bellied flycatcher or possibly Least. I did notice a bright teardrop eye ring and felt maybe I found a Western flycatcher. I sent a back-of-camera photo to James Smithers. He immediately recognized it as a potential "western type" flycatcher and proceeded to have me send to others. I tried Western and Hammonds calls but could not get the bird out again. I even tried the Least call. I sent the photos to Jack Rogers. James and Jack discussed and felt it looked good for a Hammonds. While I was still on the island they sent photos to others. I sent them the originals when I got home and posted on the GroupMe page for discussion per James and Jack's recommendation. The comments lead to Hammonds especially the following:

David Van der Pluyme

Both Lauren Harter and I feel this looks fine for Hammond's. All photos the primary projection looks long, and the tail looks short and strongly notched. Bill looks small and straight sided, not the spade shape of Least. The markings on the wings don't look as contrasting as Least, though it is a difficult angle. Crown looks peaked and seems to show strong gray head contrasting with the chest. Both are good for Hammond's, but I'd give limited weight to them from the photos. Hammond's lower mandible coloration is extremely variable.

WesleyFritz

It's looks like a Hammond's, the posture and hanging the tail strait down, slight vest, funky tanish primaries, the narrow bill, thick neck, the white around the eye. Another note is that Hammond's like to perch high and nest very high. I'd feel more comfortable seeing more images.

I came back after lunch but could not locate the bird. I think by then it was way too hot.

17. Voice: Did not hear

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

Least Flycatcher. The primary wing projection is longer on this bird.

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

I have photos just from the front and very little side shows, but enough for primary wing projection

20. Previous experience with this species: None. This is a LIFER!!!!

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

I used Cin-Ty Lee's book when I got home and the other birders as explained above.

22. Identification aids used when?

At time of sighting, After observation

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

I personally cannot be positive as flycatchers are very hard and I have no experience with this species. I do have confidence in the other birders that expressed their comments.

24. Date report completed:

9.19.2025

25. 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

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

Yes

















