

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Hammond's Flycatcher
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
1
3. Parish: Vermilion  
Specific Locality: ca. 5 mi S of Perry
4. Date(s) when observed: 4 December 2022

5. Time(s) of day when observed: from around 10:00 to about 10:30

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul E. Conover
City:
State:

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Mac Myers, Dave Patton, Phillip Wallace (finder)

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

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Field conditions were mediocre, sun behind bird at times.

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

11. Distance to bird(s): specimen

12. Duration of observation: ca. 5 minutes of viewing time

13. Habitat: Deciduous edge of cypress swamp.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird was first seen perched very high (50-60 ft?) in the tops of cypress tree. The bird was flicking its wings continuously like a kinglet. This behavior made it a good candidate for Hammond's.

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*):

Small somewhat brightly colored flycatcher with fairly long primary tips.

Bill narrow and short (about 7 mm from nares to tip), beneath dull horn with orange tint near basal feathering, duskier on sides of bill near base, duskier horn tip on outer 1/3 to 1/2. Upper blackish.

Underparts pale yellow from base of tail to border of breast and throat. Throat and chin whitish to pale gray, with noticeable contrast and demarcation between grayish throat and yellowish breast. Bend of underwing yellowish. Upperparts greenish, head grayish-green. Pronounced eyering. Primaries and secondaries darkish gray with paler edging, two whitish wingbars. Tail partially missing probably due to collecting.

Legs blackish, eyes brown.

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Ventral color indicates western species, as does narrow fairly straight sided bill. Wing-flicking behavior, small bill, eye ring suggestive of Hammond's. P9 measures out at 65mm, P5 at 56mm, with the difference of 9 mm eliminating Dusky per Pyle guide key. From Gray by behavior; tail movement not consistent with that species. From "Western" by ventral color/pattern. From Least by color pattern, probably by primary extension, and by bill shape (width).

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, by Patton and Wallace. Specimen obtained by me.

19. Previous experience with this species: Mainly in the field out west; seen many times on multiple trips out west. Seen and collected one previous time in Louisiana; seems very similar in hand to that specimen, perhaps shorter-billed.

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from: Notes dictated during initial exam of specimen in field, study of in hand photos.

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes, I feel pretty confident about it. Behavior seemed very consistent with Hammond's.

23. Date: 6 December  
Time:

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?

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