

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: Mangrove Cuckoo
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 bird, probably a juvenile
3. Parish: Orleans
Specific Locality: In a Sycamore Tree on the Corps of Engineers property at 7400 Leake Avenue.
4. Date(s) when observed: Oct 28, 2014
5. Time(s) of day when observed: approx. 1230 pm.
6. Reporting observer and address: Rob Heffner, 2115 Joseph St, New Orleans, LA 70115
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): none
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): It was a clear sunny day with the sun slightly to the south. The bird landed in the top of the tree and was clearly visible
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): naked eye sighting and study.
11. Distance to bird(s): Bird was approx. 30' overhead.
12. Duration of observation: approx. 5 minutes. I left before the bird did. I had to return to work.

13. Habitat: The bird was in one of a row of mature sycamore trees that are between the parking lot and the river. Approx 150 yards upstream is forested batture. Approx 500 yards downstream is forested batture.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): I had just finished eating lunch by the river behind the Corps of Engineers building and was taking a stroll when I saw the bird fly into the tree top. I would say it was resting since it only hopped to another branch one time in the 5 minutes I studied the bird. There is no behavior or calls to report as the bird was pretty inactive.

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 spots on the tail and general slender build had me thinking cuckoo immediately. The bird was approximately 12" long. The yellow lower mandible was clearly evident. What struck me as odd and a characteristics I didn't recall about cuckoos was the bold black mask. It was broader than the eye strip of the yellow-billed or black-billed cuckoos. The other thing that had me confused was the yellow belly. It brought a Great-crested Flycatcher to mind.

16. Voice: no vocalization

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Yellow-billed lacks the yellow belly and the eye strip is not as large as on the bird observed. Black-billed Cuckoo also lacks the yellow belly and doesn't have the yellow mandible. The tail spots weren't right for Black-billed either. They more closely resembled a yellow-bills.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): none

19. Previous experience with this species: none, this was a lifer for me.

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: Once home, I referred to Sibley Guide to Birds

21. This description is written from:

notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?

	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
X	Memory (though this is the third time I've written a similar account since seeing the bird.		
	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes. I'm very conservative in sightings I add to my birding lists, particularly when it is a lifer. This bird is going on my list.

23. Date: Nov 18, 2014 (first reported on Oct 29, 2014)
Time: 4:25 pm

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? Yes
If yes, may we include your name with the report? Yes