

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher *Myiodynastes luteiventris*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1
3. Locality: Cameron Parish
Specific Locality: Willow Island
4. Date(s) when observed: 10/15/2019
5. Time(s) of day when observed: about 7:42 to about 8:00 a.m.
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul Conover, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): B. Mac Myers III, David P. Muth
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): Sunrise was ca. 7:13 a.m. with slight overcast; the bird was in dense oaks, so light was initially very limited. The light improved by the time the bird was relocated.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x Zeiss at first look, then switched to camera. Later, with binocs again.
11. Distance to bird(s): In the field probably about 20 feet at first, closest look.
12. Duration of observation: Visual observation lasted about 2 minutes, probably.
13. Habitat: Coastal chenier about .5 mi removed across marsh from the beach.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation: The bird was first noted as a disturbance among the leaves as if from a medium-sized bird. The only mark seen at first was the reddish tail, which at the least indicated a notable bird given the date. It seemed to be catching prey using short, somewhat heavy movements, which was interesting as well. The bird made two such moves hidden in thick leaves, then perched on a slightly more exposed branch and sat still for about 1 minute, at which time its identity was confirmed. The bird flew to another large oak after this, and when the others joined me we relocated it there after a few minutes. In the second location it also seemed to make short movements interspersed with long stretches of resting in relative stillness in dense clumps of oak leaves.
15. Description:

A medium-sized, somewhat stocky, coarsely well-patterned, yellowish and brownish flycatcher with a masked facial pattern and reddish tail.

Underparts ground color white on throat, yellowish on breast with dense brownish streaking, and largely unmarked pale yellow on belly and undertail coverts.

Upperparts a complex blend. Mantle with pale brownish ground color and regular, dense, darker brown streaking. Wings darker brown with broad pale whitish and buff margins to most feathers,

giving the wing a coarsely-scaled appearance. Rump and tail reddish with dark centers at tips of outer rects, and thick dark central line on central rects.

Head with whitish ground color, with whitish supercilia and lower auricular stripe set off by darker, finely streaked crown, thick dark brown mask before and behind eyes, and dense, thick moustache stripe.

Eye dark. Bill heavy, dark on upper mandible, and dark on lower mandible but with about 1/3 of the bill base much paler, perhaps pale horn, on sides and bottom. Legs dark grayish, with paler toe pads.

16. Voice: not heard

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

The closest contender would be Streaked Flycatcher, which I believe has streaked belly and undertail and less densely marked moustache. Other similarly marked species are eliminated by size and bill size.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen before out west, including studies in Arizona 4 months previous where I was able to watch and film a nest for several days.

20. This description is written from memory and observation of specimen.

21. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: I'm confident in this ID.

22. Date: 10/15/2019















