

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 adult male
3. Parish:
Jefferson
4. Specific Locality:
Grilletta Tract on Grand Isle
5. Date(s) when observed: 4/23/25
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 8:45 am
7. Reporting observer: Jane Patterson
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
Katherine Gividen
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Bird was observed in a small mulberry in the front (gulf side) of the tract just as I was exiting the vehicle and walking into the area. Sun would have been behind and to the right of me. Clear day; no rain.
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): I was fairly close to the bird, so observed it both with my naked eye and then Swarovski 8.5 x 42 bins from 25 feet away
12. Distance to bird(s): ~25 feet
13. Duration of observation: several seconds before it flew overhead toward the beach
14. Habitat: Perched in a mulberry tree at the entrance of the tract
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Perched

upright observing its surroundings, probably on alert as I was walking toward it. I stopped when I saw it to observe more closely.

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):

Katherine and I had just been in the water tower neighborhood and I mentioned that we should check all the "blackbirds" very carefully for Shiny Cowbird because they've been seen there before. I had just reviewed all the pertinent field marks with her and showed her photos, so it was all fresh in my mind. So when I saw an all black bird with an upright posture sitting in the tree, I was on alert. I noted absence of a yellow bill (Starling) and red or yellow patch on wing (RWBL). I also noted the length of the tail and then used binoculars to confirm the dark eye and the purplish sheen to the feathers.

17. Voice: n/a

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

Starling - no yellow bill. RWBL - no red or yellow on wing coverts. COGR or BRBL - no yellow eye

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

unfortunately, once I confirmed ID to myself, I called Katherine over and the bird flew as I was getting my camera out

20. Previous experience with this species: Seen once before on Grand Isle in water tower neighborhood

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

iBird Plus app

22. Identification aids used when?

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

Yes

24. Date report completed:

6/3/25

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