

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Brown-crested Flycatcher - *Myiarchus tyrannulus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1
3. Parish:
Jefferson
4. Specific Locality:
Grand Isle - Landry Leblanc Woods
5. Date(s) when observed: 10/14/2022
6. Time(s) of day when observed: mid morning
7. Reporting observer: Esme Rosen
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
identified as a Brown-crested by J. Bosler and later Nick Ramsey, in addition to myself. We were with a mob of people looking for the Red-legged Honeycreeper, but in the field identifications were mixed; Jane Patterson and Eamon Corbett were thinking Great-crested, and a number of other people had no idea
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
unfortunately the bird was not seen again after our observation in the morning
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Rather shady, gloomy conditions, perhaps slightly backlit
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): 12 feet
13. Duration of observation: 2 min
14. Habitat: Coastal woodlot

15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Seen perched in two different positions before it disappeared

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):

Notes written 10/15. My impression of this bird in the field was a large, long-billed and pale Myiarchus. I did not notice an extensive rufous under tail, though my views of the under tail were not satisfactory. The bird initially was quite close, before flying back, landing once, and vanishing, never to be seen again. The crown was brown, the crest was damped down. The crown contrasted with a noticeably paler cheek, throat, and breast. The nape also contrasted with the crown, though not nearly as much. Below the bird was lemon yellowish, our impression in the field was that it was quite bright. The bird had wing bars, rufous secondaries, and distinct white stripes on the tertials. The bill had an indistinct pinkish base. Based on my photos, there is no rufous visible on the tail from behind, and the stripes on the tertials were rather thin, and though the first tertial had a slightly wider stripe, it was not unbelievably bold. Kathy Rhodes' photos under Great-crested Flycatcher (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S120656109>) show that there are wide dark vertical lines on edges of the tail, with rather limited rufous on the interior.

17. Voice: not heard, unfortunately

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

Structurally, this bird looked much better for Brown-crested to me; the paleness of the throat and breast also support that, though apparently some first year basic Great-crested can also be quite pale. The lack of rufous in the tail is also supportive of Brown-crested. I am less familiar with this mark, but I think the thinner white lines on the tertials are closer to Brown-crested on this bird than Great-crested; the latter seems to show a very bold, thick white strip on the first tertial in particular. My impression is that the wings are somewhat shorter than usual (giving a longer tailed appearance) for Great-crested. One sticking point is the pale base to the bill, a mark usually associated with Great-crested; that said, Great-crested seem to have a more orange pale base, while this bird was pink, and the paleness seems to not necessarily be restricted to the lower mandible, but also extended to the gape. Judging from Macaulay photos, some pinkness at the base of the lower mandible and gape does not seem to be exceptionally unusual for Brown-crested. Based on the photos by others, the tail pattern appears correct for Brown-crested, with dark lines on the outer edges of the tail and rufous on the interior extending all the way to the base. As I noted above, see Kathy Rhodes' photos

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

I attached a few of my photos from behind. Also refer to Kathy's photos linked above, and there are some additional photos by Eamon Corbett here

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S120673814>

20. Previous experience with this species: I had already found 2 of the species in the state at this point, so I was fairly familiar with the species

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

I used Steve and Donna's article on Myiarchus ID when writing the analysis

22. Identification aids used when?

After observation

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

not completely. I am nearly sure, I just wish the photos were better or there was audio. I've left it as Myiarchus sp on eBird for now, but I think it is appropriate to submit it to the records committee given the evidence, and even if it is rejected I would like the record to be archived somewhere

24. Date report completed:

12/8/23

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



