

# 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](mailto:zoiseaux@lusfiber.net)> .

1. English and Scientific names: **Hammond's Flycatcher**

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

**One**

3. Parish: **Cameron**

Specific Locality: **Johnsons Bayou**

4. Date(s) when observed: **1 October 2022**

5. Time(s) of day when observed: **Briefly around 2:30; then around 3:00**

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: <b>Paul Conover</b>
City: <b>Lafayette</b>
State: <b>LA</b>

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

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): **Good lighting**

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

11. Distance to bird(s):

12. Duration of observation:

13. Habitat: **Coastal woodlot**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

**Mac, Dave, and I were identifying birds in a group of small songbirds and Mac noticed an empid near him. He called our attention to it and remarked that the bird seemed dark, but it was in dense cover and before he could give us directions for finding it, the bird dived through a hole in the vegetation and we lost sight of it. A short while later I turned and saw the bird about 10 feet away. I got a brief, perhaps 1-2 second look through binoculars but the bird flew off before I could raise my camera. The bird was very distinctively colored and patterned. The head seemed to be one color or tone as if it was hooded, and the darkness of the hood extended onto the breast. The bird seemed upright, fairly long-tailed, and a strong eyering that contrasted with the dark-hooded effect. We felt pretty strongly that the bird was a Dusky/Hammond's type. When viewing the bird later, we felt the bill was longer than we'd expect on a Hammond's. However, measurements of the bird indicated 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*):

A small, strongly colored Empidonax with distinct eyering. Bird followed basic Empidonax pattern of dark above, pale below, with wingbars and paler feather edging.

Bird olive greenish above, with some gray mixed possibly mixed into green of sides of face. Eyering broad and whitish, but exact pattern not seen well. Wings dusky blackish with broad buffy wingbars, secondaries narrowly margined buffy or yellowish, tertials broadly but indistinctly margined buffy. Underparts with ground color of pale but vivid yellow. Chin whitish, throat dusky gray and not strongly contrasting in tone with/merging with rest of head, with narrow mottled whitish area in line down center. Yellow ground color of upper breast mixed with olive to form dark vest or hood. Tail dusky gray with outer webs of outer pair of rectrices paler gray or off white.

Bill medium length, somewhat narrow, slightly convex-sided. Upper mandible blackish; lower mandible with orange ground color washed dusky throughout and more strongly dusky on about distal half. Mouth lining dusky orange with indistinct dark markings on each side of upper mouth. Note: Duskiess photographed on fresh specimen may have faded, leaving bill more colorful and less patterned.

Eyes dark brown. Legs black.

The following measurements (in mm) were made:

wing	65
tail	55
wing-tail	10

bill from nares	7.4
bill width	4.5
longest p - shortest p	15
longest p - p6	4
p6-p10	7
p9-p5 (most diagnostic)	8
emarginated?	yes

16. Voice: Patton heard a call that he can only describe as empid-like.

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

Assuming that the color of this individual narrows its identity down to the Dusky/Hammond's pair, many of the following measurements fall within the overlap zone between the two species. Wing-tail is outside of Hammond's range, but that might reflect an error on my part. Note longer wing and shorter tail than Dusky. P9-P5 ranges are exclusive to each species; this individual fall within Hammond's range. The burden of evidence favors Hammond's.

	specimen	Hammond's	Dusky
wing	65	62-75	61-73
tail	55	52-62	57-68
wing-tail	10	11-19	3-12
bill from nares	7.4	6.0-8.0	6.5-8.9
bill width	4.5	4.0-4.6	4.2-5.3
longest p - shortest p	15	13.3-20.6	9.2-15.2
longest p - p6	4	1.8-5.5	0.0-3.0
p6-p10	7	2.8-8.0	6.0-10.8
p9-p5 (no overlap)	8	5.6-11.6	2.2-5.5
emarginated?	yes	yes	yes

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Specimen; PEC.

19. Previous experience with this species: **I've seen Hammond's out west but typically during nesting season when plumage is paler. In those cases, observations were possible as birds were on nesting grounds and were easy to observe. There, behavior including wing-flicking like kinglet, and shape, especially primary projection, allowed separation from other empids.**

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation: **An exhaustive search of material including publications, field guides, and**

**online photos.**

21. This description is written from: **Examination and measurement of specimen.**

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: **Confident, but I would like for the bird to be sexed and for independent measurement by Cardiff and E. Johnson to determine the accuracy of my data. I would also like to see specimen laid out with DUFL and HAFL specimens for direct comparison.**

23. Date: **17 October 2022**

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? \_\_\_\_\_

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