

# 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: Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
One individual, a male (black plumage).

3. Parish: St. Tammany

Specific Locality: Big Branch NWR--Lake Rd. 30°16'01.5"N 89°57'24.0"W

4. Date(s) when observed: July 11, 2019

eBird checklist: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S58371371>

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

11:50 a.m.

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Eric Cormier
City: Sandy Springs
State: Georgia

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Victoria Cormier

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 light – the bird was west of us and the noon sun was still behind/above us.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): none

11. Distance to bird(s): About 10 feet. The bird was on a rather low powerline while I was sitting on the window ledge of the car and right in front of the bird.

12. Duration of observation: about 15 minutes

13. Habitat: marsh

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Resting on a powerline. Rather tame (like some other birds on the wires), since he allowed us to get close to him (however, he did finally fly away). The bird didn't seem alarmed at our presence, since he would concentrate on looking at the marsh on all sides.

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*): An overall bluish cowbird with a pointy silver bill. Dark eyes weren't red. He didn't have a trace of brown on his head.

16. Voice: Silent

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): He obviously wasn't a Brown-headed Cowbird, and the above-mentioned field marks ruled out Bronzed Cowbird.

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

Yes. I took a couple pictures with a cellphone which are attached in this form.

19. Previous experience with this species: Argentina and Florida.

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: studied BROCC images to compare with mine

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	no
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Not quite 100%. The photos are poor quality and I didn't have previous experience with Bronzed Cowbird.

Nonetheless, a male BROCC would not have dark eyes, a pointier bill, or bluish sheen all over, including on his head.

23. Date: July 30, 2019

Time: 11:00 a.m.

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?

No

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

