

## LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Tropical Parula - *Setophaga pitiayumi*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
1 male, I think an adult
3. Parish:  
Plaquemines
4. Specific Locality:  
Morel's Woods
5. Date(s) when observed: 3/3/24
6. Time(s) of day when observed: around 10:30am
7. Reporting observer: Esme Rosen
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
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): moved around, initially in good light, then a but more backlit as in the photos, generally in rather shaded area
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon Binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): maybe 10 ft?
13. Duration of observation: 40 seconds
14. Habitat: Coastal live oak grove, with a good number of older trees and a fairly high canopy
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Responded

to mob tape. Flitted around the speaker once and vanished, not to be seen again despite another 20 minutes of effort

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):

Small warbler, notably smaller than adjacent Yellow-rumped warblers, comparable in size to kinglets, but longer thinner body than those. In particular, the neck was rather stretched out looking. Tail fairly short, thin pointed beak, with dark upper mandible, yellow lower. Bright yellow on most of chest with no dark markings, vent white. The middle part of the chest was a deeper orangey-yellow, as is typical for male parulas. Blue above, with dark mask over eye and lores fading into blue head and absolutely no trace of white feathering around the eye on either side; in one photo you can see the grey skin around the eye, but no trace of white. The other pictures aren't great for this, but I could confirm this in the field as well, especially when it first appeared, as it was in slightly better light then. Two white wing bars; tail short and slightly indented at end; underside mostly whitish, with dark edges to the outer tail feathers. I did not notice the back color. I had seen Northern Parulas a little before and this bird really stuck out - brighter yellow below and deeper blue above.

17. Voice: Gave high sharp chip call several times

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

The only similar species is Northern Parula - other warblers are easily precluded by plumage and structure. It is also fairly easily distinguished from pure Northern Parula, by the extensive yellow below, lack of dark markings on the chest, deeper blue above, and black mask with no eye arcs. So the only question is separating the bird from Northern x Tropical Parula, which apparently can look extremely similar to pure Tropical Parula, with the main distinguishing factor being the presence of white feathering around the eye. The members of the committee can judge themselves if they see any such white feathering in the photos - personally, I do not see any, nor did I see any in the field when the bird was in better light. I am convinced that there was not any, and so this bird can be treated as a pure Tropical Parula. However, I do appreciate the subtlety of the problem.

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

Photos attached

20. Previous experience with this species: I've seen the species a dozen or so times in Texas and in the tropics. Many birds labelled as Tropical Parulas in Texas would likely

not stand up to scrutiny in terms of eliminating Northern x Tropical. However, having studied some apparent Tropicals in Texas with white feathering around the eye, I am positive I would have been able to see it on this bird with the views I had

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

None, though I surely used some when I first started to consider the identification of the species several years ago

22. Identification aids used when?

None used

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

yes

24. Date report completed:

3/7/24

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





