

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Western Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1
3. Parish:
Cameron
4. Specific Locality:
Oak Grove Sanctuary
5. Date(s) when observed: October 29, 2023
6. Time(s) of day when observed: around 10:45am
7. Reporting observer: Eugene Huryn
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
Christine Jacobs, Nick Ramsey
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): Light was near perfect, sun was at my back, so the bird was not backlit, bird was seen twice at different angles, the back seen first, then the belly.
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 8x42 Vortex Diamondbacks
12. Distance to bird(s): 10-15 yds
13. Duration of observation: Seen twice for 2-5 seconds either time
14. Habitat: Hawking from low hanging twigs over ragweed
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): The bird was hawking insects over a ragweed patch, and dove into the ragweed. Brief views. Unresponsive to pishing or playback

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):

Very brief views, mostly trying to get others on the bird and someone to take pictures of it as my camera had just died. Initial view was from the back, appeared extremely bright yellow-green, strong wing bars, though I didn't have time to note the color intricacies of those. Peaked crown, very strong eyering (I didn't note it to be a teardrop shape until I saw the photos) and a very orange bill (likely just the lower mandible). The bird was on the smaller side for Empidonax, though the immediate impression was not a bird with particularly short primary projection, as one would expect for LEFL. The next views were similarly short, mostly seen from the front, Christine got photos at this point, and my initial impressions were confirmed.

17. Voice: nonvocal

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

Least flycatcher- eliminated by eyering shape/size, and primary projection.

Acadian flycatcher- migration timing, eyering shape, peaked crown

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

Photos were taken by Christine Jacobs, they are not attached, but are available at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S153341885>

20. Previous experience with this species: Extensive experience just having lived in the Sierra Nevada this year, and having seen many throughout the breeding season.

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

22. Identification aids used when?

None used

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

Yes

24. Date report completed:

October 31, 2023

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