

2004-74

**LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM**

1. **COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAME:** Gray Kingbird
2. **AGE, SEX, NUMBER, GENERAL PLUMAGE(S):** one
3. **LOCALITY:** Fourchon Road (LA 3090), north end of back ridge
PARISH: Lafourche
4. **DATE AND TIME OF OBSERVATION:** 25 April 2004, 9 a.m.
5. **REPORTING OBSERVER AND ADDRESS:**
Robert D. Purrington, 4700 Bissonet Dr., Metairie, LA 70003
6. **OTHER OBSERVERS ACCOMPANYING REPORTER WHO IDENTIFIED THE BIRD(S):** none
7. **OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THE BIRD(S):** none
8. **LIGHT CONDITIONS (RELATIVE TO OBSERVER):** excellent. Very nearly behind me as I looked at the bird
9. **OPTICAL EQUIPMENT:** 10x42 binoculars, 60X on Kowa scope
10. **DISTANCE TO BIRD:** ranged from 30 to 75 yards
11. **DURATION OF OBSERVATION:** about 2 minutes
12. **HABITAT:** shrubby vegetation and power line
13. **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF OBSERVATION; BEHAVIOR:** When I first saw it, it was perched on top of a bush (baccharis ?). As I moved the car closer, it flew up to a power or telephone line. I looked at it there, then carefully tried to get out of the car to get a photograph, and it flew further down the wire. I got out and scoped it at 60X, then tried to move up on it again for a photo, and it flew down the ridge out of sight. Light was excellent, the air quite steady, so 60X were easily used.
14. **DESCRIPTION OF BIRD:** kingbird, resembling an Eastern Kingbird, but much grayer, with a very heavy, long bill, very clear black face mask, and no white tip to tail.

15. **VOCALIZATION(S), IF ANY:** none

16. **SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW ELIMINATED:** see above re EAKI: heavy bill, blackish mask, grayer plumage, no white tip to tail. Fantasy: Thick-billed Kingbird: would be hard to rule out definitively, except not noticeably robust, no brownish edgings noted, bill almost certainly too small.

17. **RESOURCES USED IN IDENTIFICATION (FIELD GUIDES, ETC.):** after the bird flew, I checked Thick-billed just in case using Sibley.

18. **PHOTOGRAPHY, IF ANY (BY WHOM):** none

19. **PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH SPECIES:** about four previous times in SE Louisiana, also Florida.

20. **SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER AND DATE:**

 6/4/04