

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> .

1. English and Scientific names: Cassin's Kingbird, *Tyrannus vociferans*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1
3. Parish: EBR/Iberville
Specific Locality: Bayou Manchac Road
4. Date(s) when observed: 25 Oct 2021

5. Time(s) of day when observed: Afternoon

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul E. Conover
City: Lafayette LA

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

Discovered by Michele McLindon

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):

Several viewers (Remsen, Lane, Cardiff, Dittmann, et al)

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

Sunny, late afternoon autumn light. Bird mainly seen in sunlight.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Nikon D3500 camera, Zeiss 10s, Kino Fieldscope 20-60x; also Dan Lane's scope—Swarovski?

11. Distance to bird(s):

Probably 30-40 meters at closest (in treetop directly above me, also in treetop about 30 m tall about 20 m away)

12. Duration of observation:

a little over half an hour (from about 5:35-6:10 p.m.; I arrived as sun was getting low and left about 10 min before sunset). I learned of the sighting after work as I happened to be texting someone that was working out the ID in the field and I raced across the Basin and made it just before the sun went down. Unfortunately the bird was not relocated the next day so plans by the discovering group to work out access became moot.

13. Habitat: Cattle pasture on edge of bayou-side forest. Pasture had scattered trees and fence and cattle; forest was mature with bottomland type composition.

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

Bird was out in pasture on fence line when I arrived. As sun moved toward horizon, bird flew in to woods and settled in sunlit treetop. Bird perched for several minutes in tree, then chose another. Bird was very vocal in the woods.

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*):

Yellow-bellied Kingbird with dark cowl and contrastingly pale chin and throat. Cowl consisted of dark gray crown, nape, and auriculars, grading into slightly lighter or less strongly suffused gray on lower throat and upper breast, and blackish lores. Pale chin/upper throat patch whitish or pale gray extending ventrally from gape down to mid-throat, although extent of patch onto throat varied depending on posture, and distally from bill base to about rear edge of eye. Eye dark. In profile bill medium length, with junction of feathering and bill base about midway between eye and bill tip. Bill broad at base laterally, with fairly straight-sided but slightly convex line to pointed tip.

Rich yellow below from breast to undertail tip, with olive wash across upper breast where lower edges of cowl met yellow. Legs blackish.

Mantle gray, although much more than that I can't say as this was the part of bird I saw least. Wings slightly darker gray, without true wingbars but with faint suggestions of wingbars created by narrow paler margins of covert feathers. Flight feathers also narrowly margined. Primary extension moderate; wingtips fell short of tip of undertail coverts on perched bird.

On spread wing in flight, pp 10-5 extended well beyond the line of tips of pp 4-1. P5 in particular jutted out beyond the rest. I didn't know if this represents molt.

I concentrated a lot of attention on the tail (and uppertail coverts) which were dark, blackish. The rects that I could see the ends of were blunt. Narrow outer margin of outermost rect pair margined whitish, broadening but becoming more diffuse near feather

tip. This pale area did not hook around feather tip a la ATFL, but the blunt tip of feather looked worn, so a pale tip may have worn off.

16. Voice: Very loud clear call which I won't try to describe as sound recordings exist for the sighting.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
Tropical/Couch's by various features including throat color and pattern. Western Kingbird is a much trickier separation as Westerns often show a similar contrastingly pale throat in some lighting angles. Despite claims that the pale patch ends in a different spot relative to the eye in Western, I've seen photographs that suggest otherwise. For this bird, the width of the white on the outer rect pair differs from WEKI. Luckily, this bird was also calling and the call recorded.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, by me and others.

19. Previous experience with this species: Pretty extensive out west in places where it is common.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
I compared photos to individuals of others species and to other Cassin's.

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
<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: Yes.

23. Date: report finalized 2/20/2022



