

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One; age/sex unknown.
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: East/Baton Rouge/Iberville Par.; Manchac Road between Pecan Drive and Bayou Paul Lane.
Bird was mainly north of Bayou Manchac in East Baton Rouge Parish but a couple of times was lured to the Iberville side.
4. Date(s) when observed: 25 October 2021
5. Time(s) of day when observed: about 4:45-5:45 PM (check photo time stamps).
6. Reporting observers and address: Steven W. Cardiff & Donna L. Dittmann
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Van Remsen, Michelle McClendon, Dan Lane, Oscar Johnson, Marybeth Lima, Lynn Hathaway, Robb Brumfield, Esme Rosen, Nick Ramsey, Paul Conover.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): None.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Partly cloudy, low 80's F, wind N 0-10 mph; bird was mainly to N/NNW/NNE or directly overhead, with good light from the left as the sun was dipping.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, and condition): Leica 10X binoculars – in good condition; KOWA 20-60X Zoom scope in good condition.
11. Distance to bird(s): as close as 50-75 ft. when perched overhead; otherwise, generally at 100-500 m.
12. Duration of observation: at least 30-45 minutes combined over a 1 hr. period. Bird could not be located for about the first 15 minutes after we arrived, but then was more or less continuously tracked thereafter.
13. Habitat: open cattle pasture/corral, with deciduous forest to north and south and scattered willows and other trees, open fields crisscrossed by various low wire fences, utility wire.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): The bird had been found by McClendon in the late AM and was subsequently observed, documented, and identified by Remsen, who then alerted others. Remsen, McClendon, and Lane were present when we arrived but had temporarily lost sight of the bird. It took at least 15 minutes for the bird to appear after we arrived. Once it was re-spotted, it was in view most of the time as it foraged from utility wires,

tree tops, low fences, and isolated shrubs. A couple of times it flew over to the bayou in response to playback and landed in the canopy above the group and even vocalized several times. We departed while most of the other observers were still present. Remsen remained until dusk and was confident that the bird was roosting there and would be findable the next AM, but the bird was a no-show the next morning.

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):

Obvious yellow-bellied kingbird with dark gray head and breast strongly contrasting with white throat, blackish tail lacking any white on the outer webs of the outer rectrices; vocalizations = occasional series of “ka-beer” calls. Photos, video, audio available in eBird lists: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S97057851> and <https://ebird.org/checklist/S97057858> .

16. Voice: diagnostic “ka-beer” calls given in response to playback.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Western Kingbird eliminated by head/breast throat contrast, tail pattern, and calls.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, by Donna L. Dittmann. Many other photos, etc. by other observers.

19. Previous experience with this species: Extensive in western USA, including many observations in W. Texas as recently as August 2021.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
None.

21. This description is written from: _____ notes made during the observation (_____ notes attached?); _____ notes made after the observation (date: _____); memory and photographs.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: YES.

23. Signatures of reporters: _____ Date: 26 Feb 2022 Time:







