

# 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](mailto:zoiseaux@lusfiber.net)> .

1. English and Scientific names: Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
1 adult; measurements and morphology indicate female.
3. Parish: Cameron  
Specific Locality: west of Holly Beach
4. Date(s) when observed: 30 September 2023
5. Time(s) of day when observed:

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul Edward Conover
City: Lafayette
State: LA

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

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Vortex 12s, Nikon D3500 with 200 mm lens

11. Distance to bird(s): specimen

13. Habitat: coastal scrub; mix of short annuals with patches of taller Baccharis, acacia.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Flycatching across large area, not vocal.

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 white throat meeting yellow of breast with minimal darker breast smudging, large bill, unicolored notched tail with no white markings.



Head gray with broad darker mask, gray of head merging into greenish mantle. Wings and tail contrastingly dark brown.

Fresh primaries 1-5, older primaries 6-10. Secondary molt in progress but with a retained badly worn secondary in the middle. Innermost tertial also much worn, middle tertial looks fresh, outer tertial also worn.

Old outer primaries appear to be emarginated more than on young birds, so I'm assuming they're adult primaries. The shape of the emargination indicates female.

P10 measurement = 100 mm, P5 = 103 mm, thus  $P5 > P10$ .

Tail also in molt; older outer rectrices with thin paler margin.

16. Voice: Not heard by me or noted by recording app. However, bird approached quickly in response to Tropical call.

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

Western and Cassin's by tail and breast markings.

Couch's by the following:

- Wing (worn) 107 mm [per Pyle, Tropical 108-122, Couch's 115-131]; the measurement is on the lower end of TRKI and well below Couch's.
- Bill from nares to tip 19.4 mm [TRKI 16.3-21.7, COKI 14.2-18.3]; This measurement is in the range of TRKI alone, but I'd like an independent measurement as it's close to a large COKI bill. However, given the small size of the wing and the degree of emargination of the primaries, this bird would appear to be a female. As such, the bill would presumably be on the low end of the range for whatever species it belongs to rather than the high end.
- Assuming the bird is an adult with adult primaries,  $P_{10} < P_5$ , better fitting wing formula of TRKI.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: I've seen this species in TX, AZ, and a few times in LA. I also saw hundreds of Tropicals in Costa Rica, where they are common urban birds, this past summer.

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

Pyle

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from: Study of specimen

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes. I believe the small wing and large bill measurements eliminate COKI.

23. Date: 1 Oct 2023