

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names:

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*)

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

1 individual, age and sex unknown (not juvenile)

3. Parish: Jefferson Parish

Specific Locality: Grand Isle State Park, on wires between eastern 2 parking areas

4. Date(s) when observed: 15 May 2015

5. Time(s) of day when observed: 6:43 pm

6. Reporting observer and address: Erik I. Johnson, 102 Goodwood Cir., Lafayette, LA 70508

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Rebecca Doane, Kelly Alm

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Jay Huner apparently relocated the bird 2 days later in the same area (pers. comm.), although I could not relocate the bird on several brief visits on 5/16 and 5/17.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): evening light with sun to back. Sunny and great viewing conditions.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 x 42 Swarovski EL binoculars. Photographed with Nikon D7000 DSLR with 80-400 mm f/4.5-5.6 lens

11. Distance to bird(s): ~50 feet

12. Duration of observation: 1 minute

13. Habitat: coastal scrub and marsh

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

wire more or less motionless, just moving head around slightly, but not with any vigor.

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*): Large bill and *Tyrannus* kingbird type shape initially caught my eye when driving to east. When I got binoculars on the bird, it was grayish on the back and head, and brownish on the wing coverts with a hint of a darker mask in the face, a slightly notched tail without a white terminal bar. It was all white underneath, from the chin to the undertail coverts.

16. Voice: not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Eastern Kingbird quickly eliminated by bill size, gray (not black) back and head, and lack of white terminal band on tail. Lack of yellow eliminates most other *Tyrannus* kingbirds (including Thick-billed, bill shape was also wrong in the case of a very drab bird). Head too gray to be Giant Kingbird.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photos, yes, by me.

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen almost annually in SE LA over last 10 years or so.

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: Google Images

21. This description is written from:

	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
x	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	Evening of 5/15/2015
x	Memory		
X	study of images		

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

Yes

23. Date: 5/22/2015

Time: 7:35am

