

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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1
3. Locality: Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: Superior Canal Bridge (29.70598, -92. 67435)
4. Date(s) when observed: 1 May 2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 1557-1648 CDT
6. Reporting observer and address: Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): None
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): Observed bird only in direct, mid-late afternoon sunlight. Bird was backlit at times, but I mainly had the sun to my side or back (see photos).
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski 8x30 binos
11. Distance to bird(s): As close as 30 m, as far as 70 m
12. Duration of observation: About 20 min
13. Habitat: Freshwater marsh, including woody canal bank bordering marsh
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):
Perching on, and occasionally sallying from, utility wire on LA-82, just east of Superior Canal bridge. Immediately recognized as Tropical/Couch's-type kingbird. After 5 min of

initial observation, in which the bird did not vocalize, I played Tropical and Couch's kingbird vocalizations via external speaker. Bird responded to Tropical Kingbird (TRKI) playback by looking at speaker and becoming alert; bird did not respond to Couch's Kingbird playback in any noticeable way. Bird was later displaced by (and possibly chased by) Red-winged Blackbird, during which time it vocalized (see below).

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):

Yellow-bellied kingbird w/ very large (especially long) bill. Other features included pale gray head w/ darker mask, olive-green back, yellowish-gray breast, bright yellow belly, blackish-gray flight feathers, and deeply-notched tail when perched.

16. Voice: Vocalized twice (not in response to playback), once during or just after long flight, and again during and following interaction w/ Red-winged Blackbird (RWBL displaced TRKI); vocalization a high-pitched twittering "tree-ee-ee-ee-ee" (typical TRKI call).

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Western Kingbird has much smaller bill, paler yellow belly, white outer veins of outer rectrices, and more squared tail. Cassin's Kingbird has much smaller bill, darker gray upperparts, breast, and head, contrasting white throat, and squared tail. Couch's Kingbird very similar to Tropical, and eliminated in this case only by vocalization. Couch's Kingbird does not have a similar vocalization to this bird's twittering "tree-ee-ee-ee-ee," but typically gives single or slow series of "kip" notes, and rolling "queeer" or slurred "chi-queer" (Nat Geo Complete Birds of NA).

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Photos by Robert C. Dobbs

19. Previous experience with this species: Extensive, in many areas of Neotropics, where it is a common, and often vocal, widespread, generalist species.

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

a. at time of observation: None

b. after observation: Nat Geo Complete Birds of NA

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

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: Yes, vocalization diagnostic.

23. Date: 20 June 2015 Time: 1024 CDT

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? Yes

If yes, may we include your name with the report? Yes



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