

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: **Tropical Kingbird - *Tyrannus melancholicus***
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): **One (1) - we believe that this was an adult but unknown as to whether it was male or female...**
3. Parish: **Acadia**
Specific Locality: **7199 S LA 13, Crowley, LA 70526**
4. Date(s) when observed: **February 3, 4, 5, 6, 2023**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **February 3, 2023 - seen continuously from 8:12 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and then again at 3:05 p.m.**
February 4, 2023 - seen continuously from 8:05 a.m. to approximately 10:00 a.m. and again at approximately 4:00 p.m. until about 4:30 p.m.
February 5, 2023 - seen at 8:20 a.m. to 9:48 a.m.
February 6, 2023 - seen at 8:24 a.m. to 10:24 a.m.
6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Claire and Tom Hanson
City: Crowley
State: LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **Robert Dobbs (we immediately contacted him with an audio of the bird to confirm the identity and he came to see the bird once he heard the audio and knew that it was the Tropical Kingbird)**
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): **N/A**

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **Sunny conditions - light winds - it was the calm after the storm - we had had a few days of stormy, rainy weather. For the duration of the sightings, the weather was "fair" - light winds, warmer than it had been, no rain.**

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

Claire's binoculars: Zeiss Terra ED 8 x 42 - excellent condition (like new)

Tom's binoculars: Nikon Monarch 10 x 42 - excellent condition

Camera used: Nikon D3500 with Nikon DX AF-P Nikkor 70-300mm 1:4.5-6.3G ED

11. Distance to bird(s): **20 to 50 yards - sometimes less as it flew toward us to catch insects.**

12. Duration of observation: **4 days - off and on - longest time of continuous observation was approximately 3 hours on the first day of the sighting -**

13. Habitat: **The TRKI was usually seen in relatively open areas or in trees that had little to no foliage - although, it was occasionally seen high in the outer branches and leaves of live oak trees.**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): **We had just had a round of bad weather - cold temperatures, heavy rains for a few days before we saw the Tropical Kingbird. - We heard it first, the "twittering" call - (it was calling quite a bit initially.) The different call (one we hadn't heard before) made us quickly find the bird in a large oak tree - on a high branch in the outer leaves. Having observed the TRKI over several days, we were able to see it in flight, catching insects in the air and on the ground, feeding on dragonflies while perched, resting, preening, "fussing" with a Northern Mockingbird, as well as a Loggerhead Shrike. Also, as YRWAs and SASPs flew in to the same small citrus trees, if they happened to be too close to where the TRKI was perched, the Kingbird flew up a little, vocalized slightly but held its ground, keeping its position on the same branch. The NOMO gave it the most trouble but the Kingbird seemed to prevail and only left "its spot" for a short while as it returned immediately after the Mockingbird flew away. The TRKI perched on a roof gutter, a livestock fence panel, an electrical box, and even wire fencing but its preferred location to catch insects was from a line of small citrus trees that had lost their leaves due to a freeze this winter.**

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*): **This was a beautiful bird! It was about the same size as the Loggerhead Shrike that was nearby the day we first saw it. The most distinguishing feature of this bird was its bright yellow belly. It had a broad, gray head, and a wide, relatively long, black bill. It had a darker (black) smudge marking (not a "line") through**

the eye. It's back was pale, yellowish-green in color - with brownish wings and tail. We would say that it was a "chunky" bird as compared to a Northern Mockingbird (which appears to be longer, more slender) - The Tropical Kingbird had no white outer tail feathers (which we immediately looked for since a Western Kingbird had been seen recently in Cameron Parish) - this bird sat mostly on its haunches when perched - not up on its legs but in photos of it in flight, we can tell that it had black legs.

16. Voice: Sibley describes the common call voice as a high, sputtering twitter of sharp, metallic notes - this was exactly what we heard and recorded. In fact, this is how we first found the bird - it was calling from a large, live oak tree - a call that we had never heard before. We were able to locate it from its call - it was approximately 50 yards away at the time - bright yellow, gray head - couldn't miss it! After the first day, the bird rarely vocalized again -

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **Western Kingbird - this bird did not have white outer tail feathers - and the audio recording that we took confirmed that it wasn't a Couch's Kingbird.**

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **Claire and Tom Hanson - photos and audio attached.**

[Audio 1](#) [Audio 2](#) [Audio 3](#) [Audio 4](#) [Audio 5](#)

19. Previous experience with this species: **No previous experience but have seen numerous Western Kingbirds in Colorado (as we lived there for many years)**

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

a. at time of observation: **The Cornell Lab Merlin Bird ID app; and Sibley V2 app**

b. after observation: **Sibley Birds East 2nd Edition; eBird website and assistance from Robert Dobbs**

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: **We are positive of the identification due to the audio recordings taken of the bird - and confirmation of same by Robert Dobbs, eBird Reviewer.**

23. Date: **February 9, 2023**

Time: **8:00 p.m.**

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

Yes

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







