

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Tropical Kingbird - *Tyrannus melancholicus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 age unknown
3. Parish:
Plaquemines
4. Specific Locality:
Venice
5. Date(s) when observed: 12/7/24
6. Time(s) of day when observed: late afternoon
7. Reporting observer: Esme Rosen
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
Van Remsen, Steve Mlodinow, David Muth, Joan Garvey, John Nelson
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
moved around, from somewhat backlit to excellent light
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon Binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): at times very close, a couple of meters perhaps
13. Duration of observation: I forget exactly but it felt like we were standing there for at least 30 minutes
14. Habitat: industrial area with a few small bushes in the lower Mississippi, adjacent to some water body connected to the river
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): first seen on wire - reacted aggressively to playback, coming very close and showing red crown, but only vocalized once
16. 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):

kingbird with yellow belly extending up to greenish chest, greenish back, light grey head with dark mask, fairly long black bill. pale linings to wing feathers, except for blackish primaries, and black tail

17. Voice: gave diagnostic kikiki call once after extensive playback of Tropical and Couch's, both of which it responded too

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

Kingbirds besides Tropical/Couch's easily eliminated by fully yellow belly and chest, greenish back, larger bill, etc. Couch's distinguished by voice. There was some debate among those present about if it could be identified before it called, with multiple very good birders on the side of Couch's and multiple on the side of Tropical. This left me unconvinced the species can be separated visually, at least shorter billed birds like this one

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

many photos, some attached, more on eBird here

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S204841487>. Van also captured the birds vocalization in a video, see <https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/627413478>

20. Previous experience with this species: this is now the fifth time I've seen the species in the state. I've also seen this species and Couch's a number of times in south Texas

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

none used

22. Identification aids used when?

None used

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

yes

24. Date report completed:

1/3/25

25. 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

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

Yes

