

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: [Cassin's Kingbird](#) (*Tyrannus vociferans*)

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
[One 1st winter \(formative plumage\)](#).

3. Parish: [Jefferson Davis](#)

Specific Locality: [Pumpkin Center Rd., 2.5 mi SSW of Hayes, LA](#)

4. Date(s) when observed: [14 December 2024](#)

5. Time(s) of day when observed: [1:50 pm](#)

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Erik I. Johnson
City: Sunset
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): [None, I was birding solo](#).

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): [None known. It is possible people went looking for it after I found it, but no reports show up in eBird \(as of 2/13/2025\)](#).

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): [Overcast](#).

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): [Vortex 10x42 razor binoculars; Nikon D7200 SLR with 150-600 f/4.5-6.3 Sigma lens. All in good condition](#).

11. Distance to bird(s): Initially found about 2000 ft away (as measured by Google Earth) while scoping the tree line, looking SW from Pumpkin Center Rd., to scan through a blackbird flock. Where the tree line met Pumpkin Center Rd., there was a raised solid gravel access road to the west with an open gate. I waited at the gate as the bird continued to slowly work its way east (toward Pumpkin Center Rd.), as the blackbird flock did the same. After another 20 minutes, the bird got within good range to get profile photos, and up-close scoped views within 100 feet of the bird.

12. Duration of observation: I spent about 35 minutes with the bird, based on timestamps of first and last photos.

13. Habitat: Agricultural area, especially to north, west, and east, with a treeline running east-west along a private access road. South of this road was more swampy, which had scattered shrubs, tangles, and small trees.

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

The bird was foraging and alertly scanning the sky for flying bugs. It periodically sallied out, often a substantial distance (100 ft or more) toward the north (away from me) and returned to the same or nearby perch with an insect. It remained in the upper 2/3 of the trees, which were largely bare, thus primarily giving me open views of the bird against the cloudy sky.

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*):

Initial scoped views of this yellow-bellied *Tyrannus* piqued my interest for being a possible Cassin's - the head and chest looked similarly dark gray with the white chin and "mustache" contrastingly strongly. The initial head pattern impression remained as I got close to the bird, and although there was a thin white edge (wear?) to the outer tail feather, the outer webbing of R6 was black, which should rule out Western Kingbird. The wing coverts looked distinctly scalloped, and the primary coverts looked consistently brownish (retained juvenile) in the photos, suggesting this was a first-winter bird in formative plumage. I could not determine where the molt limits were, however.

16. Voice: Not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Not a Tropical/Couch's by having more gray in the breast, a smaller bill, and a black (not brownish) tail. Ruled out Western based on head pattern and limited pale along outer webbing of R6.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): [Photos by me.](#)

19. Previous experience with this species: [My first one seen Louisiana. I've seen them out west here and there, most recently in spring 2021, including in places where they overlap with Western Kingbird.](#)

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

a. at time of observation: [Merlin and Audubon apps. I also texted Rob Dobbs \(the compiler of this CBC, and who has more out west experience than I\) at the time and Van Remsen soon after for their input, both of whom supported the ID.](#)

b. after observation: [Sibley North American Guide 2nd edition, Macaulay Library of photos, filtering by similar time of year.](#)

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	I typed some initial notes in eBird at the time, and edited/cleaned those that evening or the next day. https://ebird.org/checklist/S205392782
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: [Yes.](#)

23. Date: [14 February 2025](#)

Time: [7:25 am](#)

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](#)













