

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Cassin's Kingbird - *Tyrannus vociferans*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
2 (at least two individuals, I had a clear observation of two harassing a TRKI candidate bird in the vicinity.)
3. Parish:
Plaquemines
4. Specific Locality:
Diamond, LA
5. Date(s) when observed: 11/17/24
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 8:45AM
7. Reporting observer: John A. Keegan
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
None
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
Michael Musumeche, Cheryl Huner
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
Overcast, mid-morning with some sun coming out.
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x binoculars, 600mm camera lens
12. Distance to bird(s): 60ft
13. Duration of observation: continual over about 1 hour; observed at least two CAKI and recorded their vocalizations. Birds remained present when other birders arrived and stayed throughout. They displaced briefly when an AMKE came to the electrical wire they were frequenting but returned not long thereafter.
14. Habitat: Electrical wires, tops of oak trees on edges of open grassy areas.

15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Flycatching - sallying out and returning to the same spot (usually on the electrical wires) and then sometimes at the top of the oak trees. At one point two of the birds I felt were clearly CAKI harassed and chased off the TRKI candidate bird. They preferred the electrical wires to themselves and chased the possible TRKI down to the chain link fence.

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 dark grey head and pale white mustache/beard like pattern. Gray throat with U shape like a bib transitioning to a yellow bellow. Back was grey with a yellow tint.

17. Voice: Calling -- multiple episodes of a call that sounded like "free-beer", "free-beer" and then interacting and calling.

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

WEKI -- there were WEKI present. I was able to get 6-8 decent recordings of the CAKI and Merlin agreed Cassins. Merlin had also (separately) picked up the WEKI nearby so it seemed like Merlin was able to differentiate the two different species in the field under those specific conditions without any difficulty. The audio recordings are cotemporaneous to the photos and I was certain it was the CAKI candidates making the calls.

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

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S202801926> - photos and audio

20. Previous experience with this species: Minimal. I have observed the species and heard the call once before.

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

Other birders who arrived later agreed on the CAKI.

22. Identification aids used when?

At time of sighting, After observation

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

Pretty certain. Merlin was recording while I took these pictures and the audio is pretty clear. It is possible one or more of my photos ALSO includes a WEKI -- which were definitely present - but the CAKI audio is pretty unmistakable and was recorded while the pictures were being taken.

24. Date report completed:

11/18/24

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









