

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):
1, age/sex unknown
3. Parish:
Cameron
4. Specific Locality:
Holly Beach
5. Date(s) when observed: 9/26/24
6. Time(s) of day when observed: around 7:30am
7. Reporting observer: Esme Rosen
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
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): excellent light on initial views, after it flew lighting from side
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon Binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): fairly far, probably around 100 meters, but I'm not great at judging distance
13. Duration of observation: at least five minutes
14. Habitat: open fields and marshes, with some small scrubby bushes, and immediately adjacent to the beach and Gulf of Mexico
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): the bird was first sitting on a power line along the road. I stopped a ways off to get some photos and

slowly move forward, but it was flushed by a truck and flew off into the scrub. I relocated it again quite far off in the scrub. I played Cassin's Kingbird tape to try and bring it closer, and it did respond by flying up, but then it flew further north and I never saw it again

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 smaller bill, dark grey chest head and back, distinct white throat patch. No mask around eye. Tail blackish with mostly square end, only slight dip probably due to molt. Absolutely no white edges to tail - when the bird flew it spread its tail, and I definitely would have seen that. Heavy molt on wings, which had an unusual distinctive white stripe around the secondaries on them due to molt. Some white edges on the scapulars and coverts - primaries appeared blackish as far as I could see. Lemon yellow below; not particularly bright. Yellow came up to about the wings, before turning into dark grey.

17. Voice: unfortunately did not vocalize

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

The most likely contender is Western Kingbird, which is a scarce but regular fall migrant in coastal Cameron parish. I knew this bird was not a Western Kingbird as soon as I saw it. My initial views were in perfect light, and no Western Kingbird looks as dark grey as this bird did on the head and back. The white throat patch under the bill was obvious. Western Kingbirds can show the illusion of a patch like this in poor light, but in such excellent lighting, it is impossible. In addition, when the birds flew from the wire it spread its tail, and so I can confidently say that this bird did not have the bold white edges to the tail feathers that Western Kingbirds show in all plumages.

The other possibility is Tropical/Couch's. Both of these species would show a longer and thicker based bill than this bird did, and also have yellowish green extending all the way up to the throat. In addition, these species are more of a light grey color on the head similar to Western Kingbird as opposed to the dark grey of the bird, and generally show a dark face mask which this bird did not.

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

20. Previous experience with this species: I have seen the species a couple dozen times in the west, and two individual in Louisiana as well (Bayou Manchac and Diamond). I

have also seen hundreds of Western Kingbirds in the west and dozens of Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds in Texas and South America

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

none used for this bird

22. Identification aids used when?

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

yes

24. Date report completed:

9/28/24

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













