

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names:

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*)

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

1 individual, SY by eccentric-type molt limits in the spread wing and male by shape of outer primaries (Pyle 1997)

3. Parish: Jefferson Parish

Specific Locality: Grand Isle Exxon Fields, on wires at Orleans Ave. x Campsite Rd.

4. Date(s) when observed: 3 May 2015

5. Time(s) of day when observed: 8:20 pm

6. Reporting observer and address: Erik I. Johnson, 102 Goodwood Cir., Lafayette, LA 70508

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): Dan Purrington and David Muth apparently relocated the bird sometime later in the date (DRP pers. comm.).

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): morning light at various angles relative to sun. Sunny and great viewing conditions.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 x 42 Swarovski EL binoculars. Photographed with Nikon D7000 DSLR with 80-400 mm f/4.5-5.6 lens

11. Distance to bird(s): ~100+ feet

12. Duration of observation: 6 minutes

13. Habitat: mowed fields

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

foraging from high on power lines. Sallying out great distances to grab insects and returning to a variety of different power lines in the general area.

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*): Initially seen from about 500 feet away, mostly from below/front-on, showing all white underparts. Head looked pale (not black) and slightly masked, then I noticed the tail had no white terminal bar. Immediately suspecting a Gray Kingbird I drove closer and could see the back was gray (not black) and the bill looked somewhat largish.

16. Voice: not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Eastern Kingbird quickly eliminated by gray (not black) head and lack of white terminal band on tail. Back was also gray (not black). Lack of yellow underneath eliminates most other *Tyrannus* kingbirds (including Thick-billed, bill shape was also wrong in the case of a very drab bird). Head too gray to be Giant Kingbird.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photos, yes, by me.

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen almost annually in SE LA over last 10 years or so.

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: Google Images

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:

Yes

23. Date: 5/22/2015

Time: 7:50am





