

# 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](mailto:zoiseaux@lusfiber.net)> .

1. English and Scientific names: [Great Kiskadee \(\*Pitangus sulphuratus\*\)](#)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): [3 \(two adults \[male, female\]\) and fledgling](#)
3. Parish: [Cameron](#)  
Specific Locality: [Grand Chenier, 1.5 mi east of Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge headquarters](#)
4. Date(s) when observed: [4 and 5 August 2016](#)
5. Time(s) of day when observed: [8:00-8:10 pm on 4 August, 1:50-2:10 pm on 5 August](#)
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 on 4 Aug, on 5 Aug: Katie Barnes, Luke Connally, Alyssa Richard](#)
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): [none known](#)
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):  
[4 Aug: Sundown was 8:04 pm in Cameron, so this was basically without any direct sunlight. Seen from various angles on N and S side of road, and also in trees to E and W.](#)  
[5 Aug: sunny mid-day/early afternoon overhead sun. Seen from various angles on N and S side of road, and also in trees to E and W.](#)
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): [Swarovski 10x42 EL binoculars, good](#)

condition. Snapped photos through bins using Samsung S6 smart phone.

11. Distance to bird(s): As close as 30 feet, but sometimes up to 200 feet.

12. Duration of observation: 4 Aug: 10 minutes; 5 Aug: 20 minutes

13. Habitat: roadside/chenier oak/hackberry forest patches with lawn, marsh, and homes in area.

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

4 Aug: One bird was initially seen perched on the electric wires on the south side of the road as I was driving west at ~55 mph. Turned around and the bird was gone, but I could hear a bird calling from the trees on the south side of the road even before I stopped. I pulled off, used playback, and immediately two birds came out of the trees, flying directly overhead. I stopped, and the birds continued to call and give full repertoire over next several minutes (“wah”, “kis-ka-dee”, and “chi-wah”, and variations on those). Both birds circled around me several times, often disappearing into nearby treetops, but also sometimes landing on the wires and exposed branches. Eventually, as I was tracking these two birds, a third bird popped out of the trees about 20 feet up, on the south side of the road. This bird flew clumsily from one tree to another, and disappeared, so I only saw it for about a second. But it clearly had a short tail, and flew in a more vertical posture, suggesting a recent fledgling. Eventually this bird called “wah” a couple of times, and parents continued to fly back to this area.

5 Aug: Similar behavior as Aug 4. When we arrived, it was quiet for about a minute, so I did playback, and immediately both birds came out. We were trying to get photos as I didn't get any the day before that were usable (only audio), so did playback on and off until the two adult birds finally perched on wires. A third bird called a few times “wah” from the trees in the same place it was heard yesterday, and I assume this was the fledgling, although this bird was never seen.

Given how aggressive the two adults were to playback, and how secretive this third bird was, that (along with the brief sighting of the third bird) strongly suggests/supports local breeding.

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*):

Large (a bit bigger, and notably bulkier, than a mockingbird that was attacked a couple times by the adults. Bright yellow underparts, white throat, black mask, white supercilium, and black crown with central orangish/yellowish patch (although this last feature was not seen well). Obviously all-rufous wings and tail seen in flight from various angles and when perched. As the birds flew over, it appeared the central tail feathers were molting, and at least one of the birds seemed to have the beginning of flight feather molt.

16. Voice: Both adults vocalizing aggressively and continuously, at least in part to playback. “Wah”, “kis-ka-dee”, and “chi-wah” calls given. Juvenile gave only “wah” call.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Really none using combination of plumage and vocalization. There are a lot of kiskadee-like birds in the tropics (Boat-billed Flycatcher, Social, etc.) that look like this, but sound completely different.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, video of vocalizations (extracted to audio) and photos, cropped to remove photo-bin clutter, but not resized. No photos of juvenile.

19. Previous experience with this species: Extensive experience in tropics, seen and heard several times now in Louisiana over last several years.

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

a. at time of observation: none; Audubon App on phone used to mimic vocalization

b. after observation: none

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: 6 August 2016

Time: 9:15 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





