

# 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: Tropical Kingbird *Turannus melancholicus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1
3. Parish: St. John the Baptist  
Specific Locality: Turtle Cove Research Center (Manchac Swamp WMA)
4. Date(s) when observed: February 25, 2020
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 10:40 – 11:03 a.m.

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Malise Prieto
City: Mandeville
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Janine Robin & Elise Read

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): Jane Patterson

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Overcast day with glare made it difficult to get photographs. However, the bird was very cooperative and “posed” in several spots – atop a tin roof under the canopy of trees which made it easy to get some photos with good color; on branches above us which allowed us to see and photograph the underside and tail; on a boat mooring piling, which brought him down to eye level and out of the glare.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 12 x 50 Vortex Binoculars and Nikon P900 camera

11. Distance to bird(s): 15 – 50 feet

12. Duration of observation: approximately 28 minutes

13. Habitat: Small gravel parking area, boat storage all around most of the perimeter, surrounded by trees, marsh and a bayou. Swamp maples, tallow trees, lots of tall grass to one side and clumps of brambles and briars.

14. I first saw the bird perched at the edge of the tin roof of a junk building adjoining the

boundary of the parking lot. As I called the other birders over, it flew into the swamp maples above us (in the glare) It was very active, appearing for a few minutes, hunting from its perch and then flying off again. It repeated this pattern several times over the observation time. It landed on branches above us, in trees nearby and on a boat mooring piling in the bayou, all the while hunting and feeding. It appeared to be somewhat interested in us, but not bothered by our presence.

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*): Larger and more colorful than the flock of WEKI that we observed a mile north in Tangipahoa parish. Larger than an EAKI. Very large, bulky bill. Overall grayish uppers, but body was darker than head, which was a lighter gray. Whitish chin/neck and bright yellow started right under the neck, not further down the chest as a WEKI. Tail was notched.

16. Voice: It did not vocalize for us, but we alerted Jane Patterson of its presence and she drove to the site and obtained video/audio shortly after we left. As we left, we also brought Rosemary Seidler to the spot so that she could observe it.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): WEKI is smaller and yellow on underparts starts lower on chest. EAKI is smaller and is Black and White. We went back and forth on whether this was a Couch's or a Tropical. We leaned towards Couch's because it responded to playback by coming in when we played Couch's. It did not respond to the playback of a Tropical Kingbird. Jane Patterson's audio captured its twittering calls, which ruled out Couch's.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Photographs by me, and Janine Robin

19. Previous experience with this species: Saw the Tropical Kingbird in EBR on 1/1/20

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

a. at time of observation: binoculars and camera and looked at iBird Ultimate and Sibley's app on my iPhone

b. after observation: iBird Ultimate, Sibleys and discussion with Janine Robin and Elise Read

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	Ebird list
<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? Yes, once Jane got the Audio it ruled out Couch's Kingbird. If not, explain:

23. Date: February 26, 2020

Time:11:23 pm

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 \_\_\_\_\_









