

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Tropical Kingbird - *Tyrannus melancholicus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 presumed adult
3. Parish:
Plaquemines
4. Specific Locality:
Cypress Cove Marina, Venice
5. Date(s) when observed: 12/10/23
6. Time(s) of day when observed: around noon
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):
Tropical Kingbirds were reported in Diamond earlier in the year, but I am not aware that anyone else has seen them in Venice, and I do not know if they are the same bird
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Excellent lighting at close range
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): 2-3 meters
13. Duration of observation: 20 minutes
14. Habitat: An open field surrounded by fencing adjacent to the landfill to the west and the lower Mississippi river to the east, with a small woodlot that the kingbirds used a bit removed from the road
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Flying around field, landing frequently and attempting to catch insects - initially rather distant in scrub, but moved closer along wire. Responded aggressively to Tropical playback, and somewhat less aggressively towards Couch's, though still did appear to notice it
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):

A kingbird with a long, thin, and hooked bill, yellow belly, and greenish chest that only contrasted a little with the white throat. Light gray above with dark mask, and wing feathers with pale edging

17. Voice: diagnostic kikiki call heard on two occasions, likely in response to playback

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

Besides voice, which is a key factor, the bird looked visually good for a Tropical, with a longer thin based bill, and even width white edges on the primaries and tertials with little contrast between the two feather groups. This is in contrast with the blackish primaries of Couch's, as proposed by Cin-Ty Lee. The dull green chest and lighter yellow belly are also very good for Tropical, as is the heavily forked tail. All in all, the bird lined up visually very well for what we'd expect a Tropical to look like, though not as dramatically long-billed. I also will emphasize that I heard the calls well enough to separate it from Couch's

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

Unfortunately no audio, but a sequence of photos at close range is attached

20. Previous experience with this species: seen a few times in the west, and a good amount of experience with both this species and Couch's in south Texas, including some careful study of the two species at the end of November just ahead of this sighting

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

I did not refer to anything specifically for this bird, but I relied on Cin-Ty Lee's YouTube lecture on identifying the species for background before going to Texas, which informed my study of the species there

22. Identification aids used when?

None used

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

yes

24. Date report completed:

1/9/23

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





