



## Cassin's Kingbird Documentation

1 message

**Robert Hughes** [REDACTED]  
To: IORC <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 23, 2019 at 5:24 PM

- 1) Reason for documenting this sighting - unusual species, unusual number, unusual date, unusual plumage, unusual breeding record, Christmas Bird Count record, Spring Bird Count record (include all that apply): Unusual species
- 2) Species: Cassin's Kingbird
- 3) Number of birds: 1
- 4) Age/Sex/Plumage: Unknown
- 5) Date(s): September 22, 2019
- 6) Location (include county): Montrose Point in Chicago, Cook County
- 7) Observers: Found by Krzysztof Kurylowicz. Seen by several observers, including Robert Hughes, Nathan Goldberg, Jeff Skrentny, Andy Sigler, Steve Huggins, Steve Mlodinow, and Tom Lally.
- 8) Your name: Robert D. Hughes
- 9) Your mailing address: [REDACTED]
- 10) Your e-mail address: [REDACTED]
- 11) Others agreeing with the identification: Everyone who saw the bird I believe.
- 12) Observers NOT agreeing with the identification: No one I know of.
- 13) Description of bird (size, shape, proportions, details of both color and pattern on head, back, chin, throat, breast, flanks, wings, undertail, and tail, etc.; coloration of soft parts: bill, legs, and feet). Include only details actually seen in the field: Kingbird with moderately bright yellow belly, gray head and breast, prominent white oval-shaped malar stripe (appearing as a pale spot under the eye), pale edges to the wing coverts, back color undetermined, no contrast between wings and back, blackish tail with no obvious white. Gray head contrasting with yellow underparts reminiscent of a Great Crested Flycatcher, most notable in flight. No rufous in the plumage. Size and shape similar to the 2 Eastern Kingbirds it was associating with (direct comparison, most obvious when the birds were flying together).
- 14) Description of behavior: The bird was very active, flying around the southeast corner of Montrose Point, landing in the tops of trees, disappearing at times. Also seen perched briefly in the field (Native Planting Area) on the southeast side of Montrose Point.
- 15) Description of vocalizations: Heard calling twice, a double-noted "cha-weer".
- 16) Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s): Parkland with a ring of moderate-sized trees (20-40 ft tall) mixed with shrubs surrounding a meadow and a field and dunes on the outside.
- 17) Optical equipment used for observation (type, power): 8x 30 Nikon binoculars.
- 18) Distance/how measured? About 40ft at closest (in flight).
- 19) Time(s) of observation: On and off from about 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The bird was discovered at 8:30 a.m. (Facebook message at that time to me from Krzysztof Kurylowicz, the finder).
- 20) Total time of observation: About 5 minutes
- 21) Weather conditions: Partly to mostly sunny, warm (low to mid 70s), breezy from the southwest.

22) Previous experience with this species and similar species: I have extensive experience with Western Kingbird throughout the Western United States, with multiple sightings in Illinois. I've seen Cassin's Kingbird in several Western states, including Arizona and Colorado. I've seen Tropical Kingbird in Texas and Arizona and Couch's Kingbird in Texas.

23) Please eliminate other similar species and/or hybrids: From Western Kingbird by the darker gray hood, prominent white malar stripe, lack of obvious white in the tail, and the different call. From Tropical and Couch's Kingbirds by the smaller bill, darker tail without a deep fork, lack of a dark auricular patch, darker gray head and breast, and different call.

24) Were photos obtained? Yes, by several observers.

25) If so, by whom? Robert D. Hughes, Krzysztof Kurylowicz, Rob Curtis, Nathan Goldberg. Photos by Hughes and Kurylowicz included here.

26) Books and illustrations consulted and advice received. How did these influence this description? I checked some online images of Western and Cassin's Kingbirds. I also checked Pyle for information on aging.

27) How long after the observation were field notes recorded? Within 12 hours.

28) How long after the observation was this form completed? About 1 day.

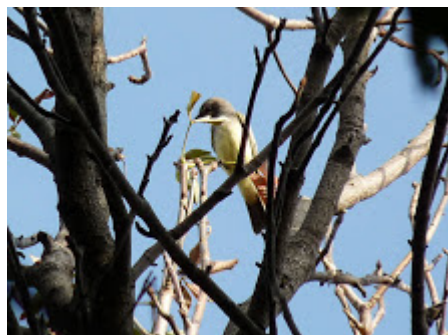
29) Additional remarks: The bird was associating at times with 2 Eastern Kingbirds.



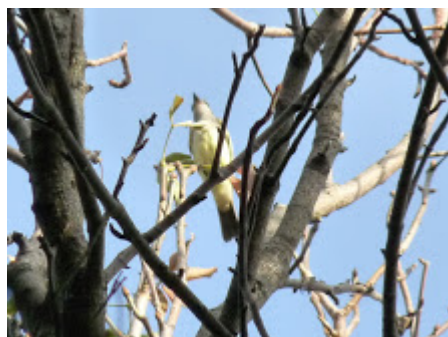
Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

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### 3 attachments



**cassins-kingbird2.jpg**  
155K



**cassins-kingbird1.jpg**  
138K



**cassins-kingbird.jpg**  
438K

