

# WV BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Please Type or Print Legibly

Species:  Number: (leave blank)   
Location:  Date:  Time:   
Bird Seen:  To:  Age/Sex:

Description: In lieu of physical material substantiating a record (e.g., specimen, diagnostic photograph, vocal recordings) a complete written description can serve as verification for the biological record. Please be as thorough as your field notes allow. Do not feel constrained by the space provided. Additional supporting descriptions/illustrations may be attached. Note that photographs or recordings WILL NOT BE RETURNED but become part of the permanent record for the observation.

Structure: (Overall size and shape plus details on the head, feet, tail, etc.)

Slightly smaller than an American Robin (see photos for comparison between the two).  
Large head much like a Great Crested Flycatcher with a similar looking beak.

Plumage: (e.g. markings, coloration, molt)

The yellow breast was what at first drew our attention to the bird. After reviewing the photos that were taken, the color and marking of the tail gave confirmation to our identification. In flight, the tail was solid black with white outer tail feathers. (see photos)

Description of any vocalizations, if heard:

None.

Description of behavior:

The kingbird was perched on top of a snag and would fly out from that perch to hawk insects. It at one point flew from that snag onto another nearby high point of a different tree, giving opportunities to capture some in-flight images. When last seen, it was flying in a southwestern direction and was not seen landing.

Habitat: (General and Specific)

Latitude: 39.462472 / Longitude: -78.037148

Woodland with open glade area that at the time of the sighting had a small stream meandering through the plot. Several of the taller hardwood trees within the marsh type settings were dead or close to dying, providing barren limbs for perches. Immediately to the east of the trees where the kingbird was sighted is an open, overgrown field which is bordered with various shrub species.

Circumstances of observation: (Include details of distance to bird, optics employed, lighting in relation to observer and the bird)

The bird was ~100 feet from our observation point. Tall grasses and shrubs prevented our ability to draw closer to the bird after being spotted. Lighting was perfect as the sun was to our backs and casting light on the front of the bird. This is most likely why the yellow breast caught our attention.

Optics: Maven 8 x 42 Binoculars

Previous experience with this species:

I had the opportunity to view this species in September 26, 2012 at Bolivar Battlefield, Harpers Ferry National Park, Jefferson County - which had been reported by Deb Hale.

Experiences with similarly appearing species which are eliminated by your description: (Please be specific)

Other observers: (Names, Addresses, E-mail please)

If the others agree with your identification they can sign this form here. If they care to provide additional details they can submit their own report.

I was using Nikon 10x50 binoculars. Otherwise, I have no additional details to add to Wade's thorough comments. My records show that I did observe this species on a trip to Colorado in 2015. But as Wade mentioned, we did not confirm the identity until he reviewed the photographs after the fact. Alex A. Tsiatsos

Additional observer signature: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Additional observer signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional observer signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and especially how did these influence this description:

The Sibley Guide to Birds, 2nd Edition

[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Western\\_Kingbird/id](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Western_Kingbird/id)

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

Descriptions of the kingbird were entered into eBird that evening, October 03, 2023. Photos were also added to that observation in eBird at that time.

Name:

N. Wade Snyder

Address:

Date:

November 15, 2023

Signature:

A redacted signature consisting of two solid black rectangular blocks.

Mail to: WV Bird Records Committee

Attn: Wil Hershberger

170 Stallion Ct.

Hedgesville, WV 25427

Or E-mail to:

[wilhershberger@mac.com](mailto:wilhershberger@mac.com)

Please use the space below to add any appropriate details you feel were missing from the above form or to expand on any answers whose allotted space was insufficient for a complete response:











