

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
Observer Name	Shannon Thompson
E-mail	<a href="mailto:ofdewdrops@yahoo.com">ofdewdrops@yahoo.com</a>
Phone	<a href="tel:412-200-0967">412-200-0967</a>
Address	Street Address: 205 Phillips Drive City: Pittsburgh State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 15241 Country: United States
Other observers who saw the bird	Jerry McWilliams, Randy Stringer
Species (Common Name)	Western Kingbird
Species (Scientific Name)	Tyrannus verticalis
Subspecies (if known)	
Number of individuals	1
Have you submitted this to eBird?	Yes
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	I'm not good with these, but appears to be fresh adult plumage. At least the feathers were bright and in very good condition.
Observation Date and Time	09-29-2012 4:30 PM
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Presque Isle State Park, Erie
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Presque Isle State Park, Long Pond Trail, cement pier
GPS coordinates of sighting	42.1555577,-80.1043117 was my location as I viewed it across water. I was looking east. Bird was on opposite side of water in snag. Snag was approxitimately at 42.1558,-80.103948.
Habitat	Snag above cattails in marshy edge of inner ponds of Presque Isle peninsula
Distance to bird	~50 yards
Viewing conditions	clear, blue skies, sun behind back, perfect!
Optical equipment used	Evo cell phone 8.0 megapixel camera through Leica Scope, not sure of power but 35X eyepiece through medium barrelled

scope, Swarovski 8X binoculars

Description	I was able to digiscope pics and video. Bird was prominent on a snag, flycatching and preening. Yellow belly, grey head, darker greyish/brown wings, light band under eye, short dark bill, slightly notched black tail, white outer rectrices. For size comparison, a pair of Northern Flickers were also on the snag and it was considerably smaller than the Flickers. Later, a Yellow-rumped Warbler landed in the tree and the Western Kingbird was considerably larger.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Shortly after I arrived, the bird hacked up a few pellets that looked like wild cherry pits. At one point the bird flew off for ~5 minutes and returned soaking wet, I assumed it was bathing. It spent the rest of it's time primarily preening and drying off while flycatching a few times inbetween. It flew off ~5:15pm and was not seen after that. We left ~6:15pm.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	short bill, grey head, light band under eye, slightly notched tail, white outer rectrices. Quickly able to rule out Great Crested, Tropical, Cassin's, Couch's using Sibley's and with Jerry McWilliams by phone.
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	Found earlier that day by Randy Stringer. 42.1555577,-80.1043117 are the coordinates from where I was standing while viewing the bird directly across the pond. This is a cement pier on the Long Pond Trail. Jerry McWilliams was also there and got pics. I have many more pics and videos. Please let me know if you need any more or anything specific. <a href="http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S11685829">http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S11685829</a>
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	Yes. All of the above.
During	Sibley's and Jerry McWilliams by phone
After	Sibley's, Jerry McWilliams, Cornell All About Birds Website
Supporting evidence (check all that apply)	Photograph Video
Upload images, audio, video or drawings	<a href="#">FLY_NOFL_PORC.jpg</a> <a href="#">FLY_PORC_1.jpg</a> <a href="#">FLY_PORC_TAIL.jpg</a> <a href="#">Kingbird_NOFL.3gp</a>
Click to edit	PORC-webform00012

Western Kingbird  
*Tyrannus verticalis*

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Location: Long Pond, Presque Isle State Park

Date: September 29, 2012

Time: 4:50 to 5:05 PM

Weather: Variably cloudy, light wind, temp. about 60 F

Viewing distance: About 150 yards

Optics: 10 X 40 Zeiss Binoculars and through the Canon camera lens using an F 4 300 mm lens and 1.4 tele-converter.

Details: In the morning Randy Stringer reported finding a Western Kingbird. I got word about the sighting around 2:00 PM, so I went out and looked for the bird without success, then Shannon Thompson called about 4:30 PM and said she had found the kingbird. I dashed out to Presque Isle and met her at a boat landing along Long Pond Trail where she had the bird in the scope. I immediately recognized the kingbird as a Western Kingbird. I started taking photographs of the bird perched and in flight. It spent most of the fifteen minutes or so it was in view perched on a bare branch at the top of a dead tree. On a couple of occasions it hawked insects from its perch, then it flew into the top of a large live Cottonwood tree and disappeared among the leaves and it wasn't seen again.

The kingbird was about the size of an Eastern Kingbird. It had a relatively small stout bill with a gray head and a dusky patch passing through the eye. The throat was white becoming pale gray down the chest and then lemon yellow from the lower breast down and including the undertail coverts. The wings were dark olive with no noticeable pale feather edgings and the mantle was a paler gray or gray-olive. The tail was jet black and only slightly notched with a distinctive white edge to the outer tail. These field marks ruled out other possibilities like Tropical, Couch's, and Cassin's kingbirds. The bird was silent the whole time. I have seen probably hundreds over my life time traveling throughout the west.









