

## FIRST RECORDS OF THE THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD IN BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

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On 13 December 1986 we found a Thick-billed Kingbird (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) in a dry wash dominated by paloverde (*Cercidium* sp.) and mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.), about 25 km south of La Paz, between the towns of San Pedro and El Triunfo, Baja California Sur, Mexico. The single individual was quietly perched most of the time it was under observation and only occasionally made short foraging flights. The diagnostic large black bill, dark forehead and "mask," contrasting clear white throat and breast, and notched tail were seen at close range by several observers (C.T. Collins, P.H. Collins, B.W. Massey, K. Keane, and C. Boardman). On 5 January 1987 presumably the same individual was again seen at this site by C.T. Collins, J.L. Atwood, P.H. Collins, and E. Palacios.

A second Thick-billed Kingbird was seen and heard by the same observers on 9 January 1987 on the grounds of the public zoo in the town of Santiago, approximately 50 km southeast of the previously described location.

The Thick-billed Kingbird breeds from southeastern Arizona and extreme southwestern New Mexico south in western Mexico to southern Puebla and western Oaxaca; it winters south to Chiapas and western Guatemala (A.O.U. 1983). It is migratory in the northern part of its range in Arizona and Sonora (Miller et al. 1957, Phillips et al. 1964). This species has not been previously recorded anywhere in peninsular Baja California (Grinnell 1928, Wilbur 1987).

In recent years there have been several records of Thick-billed Kingbirds in southern California during late fall and winter (Garrett and Dunn 1981, Unitt 1984), with one individual staying at one location throughout the winter and returning to the same locality for at least seven sequential years (McCaskie 1989). At least one of the birds we report similarly appeared to be sedentary during the December-January period and was apparently over-wintering at the site.

The Thick-billed Kingbird may be only a casual winter visitant to Baja California but the finding of two individuals during this rather brief period of field observation suggests that they may be of more regular occurrence. Despite the increased accessibility of many parts of the Baja California peninsula and increased numbers of observers, much additional field work is needed before the status of the Thick-billed Kingbird and many other species can be fully elucidated in this part of their range.

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