

2004-29

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

1. Species: Couch's/Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus couchii/melancholicus*
2. Number: one of unknown age, sex
3. Locality: Louisiana; Cameron Parish; Baton Rouge Audubon Sanctuary at Peveto Beach
4. Date: 1 May 2004
5. Time: appx. 16:30 cdt
6. Reporting observer: B. Mac. Myers III; 5660 Ada Pl.--rear apt.; New Orleans, LA 70124-2811
7. Accompanying observer: Gay Gomez
8. Independent observers: no definite ones; Danny Dobbs reported a similar kingbird perhaps a mile or less east of there the following day
9. Light conditions: overcast with light rain; but not bad, the bird was low, and the light was particularly good when it flew down with a background of the grass/ground cover
10. Optics: 10x42 Eagle, excellent condition
11. Distance: 60-85 yds., perhaps a little less
12. Duration: 3-4 minutes
13. Habitat: the field just east of the sanctuary chenier woods; grassy with mixed forbs, some shrubs and scattered oaks
14. Behavior: perched on outer branch of shrub; made several sallies for insects; a couple of times flew down within a foot of the ground
15. Description: Obviously a yellow-bellied kingbird. Underparts bright yellow to upper breast; throat white/pale gray. Gray head with darker mask from bill through eye/auriculars. Bill dark, rather long, fairly heavy; certainly larger than Western Kingbird (one seen nearby the day before). Back darker than WEKI, sort of olive. Tail dark brown/sooty, moderate notch, no white outer rectrices, tip of tail slightly paler. Excellent looks at the tail when it flew down near the ground and fanned it; excellent views both at rest and several times in flight. Went to get tape recorder, camera and Curt. While I was

gone, Gay saw the bird fly off to the east. The rain was worse. I played tapes to no avail. We did not relocate it.

16. Voice: unfortunately silent

17. Similar species: I think that the combination of coloration of underparts, bill size, tail shape and coloration eliminate other kingbirds except this pair.

18. Photographs: none; I had left my camera and tape recorder in the truck because it was raining pretty good when we started into the woods

19. Experience: several of this type in LA; some Couch's in Texas and one in LA; some Tropicals in AZ and many in the tropics; plenty of Cassin's and Westerns and several Thick-billed in the southwest.

20. Aids: none at the time; don't recall about later

21. Description made (almost verbatim transcription) from notes made in the field. - *copy attached*

22. Yes, I am certain about identification to this species pair, but not to species

23. Signature: *B. Mac Myers III*

24. Date: 18 August 2004; 15:47 cdt

† May 04

w/ Curt Sorrells

1 PM wind shift immediately
to 30 mph N.

Light rain began ~ 1:45

w/ Gay Gomez. @

Peviso ~ 4:30 PM

Couch's/Tropical

Kingbird. Light rain started.

Looking east, light pretty

good. Dist 60-85 yds.

Time 3-4 minutes.

over -

bright yellow to throat.

throat white/pale grey.

gray head w/ darker "mask"
from bill through eye/auriculars

Bill rather long, fairly heavy.

Certainly larger than Western K.

(one seen nearby day before).

Back darker than WEK1,

sort of olive. Tail dark brown,

moderate notch, no white

sides, tip slightly paler.

Seen very well in flight

several times, and at

rest. Flew down low

~ 1 ft. flycatcher - displayed tail

very well. Went to

get tape recorder and CRT.

Bird had flown back east

in field. Rain was worse.

Played tape to no avail.