

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): one individual, possibly an SY based on wing/tail wear and molt limits.
3. Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, Wetland Walkway on Hwy. 27 about 7 mi. N Holly Beach.
4. Date(s) when observed: 27 April 2019
5. Time(s) of day when observed: in view off-and-on from 7:30-9:15 AM for a total of at least 30 min.
6. Reporting observer and address: Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff
7. Other observers accompanying reporting observers:
Many other observers present and many eBird lists and photos submitted.
In particular see eBird reports by Andre Moncrieff and Larry Raymond.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): presumed same bird seen by a number of observers on 26 and 28 April 2019 (see ebird lists/photos).

<Shockingly, this DLD/SWC report is apparently the only one submitted to the LBRC for this record!?!>
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
Decent- clear and mild in AM with a light E wind, sun behind us most of time.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 X 40 and 10 X 50 Leica binoculars, good condition
11. Distance to bird(s): as close as 25 feet.

12. Duration of observation: about 30 minutes over a couple hours.

13. Habitat: east-west line of mature fruiting mulberry trees along path surrounded by canals and freshwater marsh. Bird was foraging on mulberry fruit but was also observed flycatching and perched on low shrubs/weeds on south side of wide canal bordering the south side of the walkway. Bird also was using utility lines bordering the parking lot across the highway where it perched and sallied for insects.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*. See eBird list with photos at:

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S55465469>

Comments from eBird list:

“Photos, plus many other photos by others on 26-28 April; possibly a Tropical based on impression of relatively long bill, but bird would not call even to playback.”

Obvious large “yellow-bellied” kingbird. Top of head, nape, posterior cheek area light gray with darker “mask” from lores to auriculars contrasting with crown and throat; back olive, remiges and rectrices grayish brown, tail with a slight notch. Chin and throat white contrasting with olive upper breast and then blending/contrasting with bright yellow lower breast, belly, and under tail coverts; under wing coverts yellow with some whitish yellow areas. Bill, legs, feet black, bill proportionately long, heavy, and narrow, eyes dark brown. In the flight photo with spread wings and tail, note darker new right R1 contrasting with rest of more faded/worn rectrices (which also exhibit growth bars); right R2 and left R1 are much more worn/abraded than other rectrices, suggesting that those are original juv feathers and that there are three generations of rectrices present; inner secondaries also look new/darker compared to more faded worn outer four secondaries and primaries. Tips of outer five primaries appear to be attenuated.

16. Voice: not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Morphology and coloration consistent with Tropical/Couch’s complex, and bill proportions favor Tropical Kingbird - this bird had a proportionately long and narrow bill compared to the shorter, broader, more triangular shape of Couch’s. However, most authorities are hesitant to identify down to species without voice confirmation or a specimen. If this is an SY bird then it would be more problematic determining ID from wing formula or other wing/tail measurements. Looking at specimens, bills of Couch’s are consistently short and broad whereas Tropical is more variable but averages longer and narrower. So, we would argue that “long-billed-looking” birds are Tropical because Couch’s never look long-billed, obviously short/broad-billed birds are Couch’s, and some intermediate individuals will be unidentifiable (because some Tropicals can be almost as short-billed as Couch’s).

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S55465469>

19. Previous experience with this species: Fair amount of experience in CA, southeast AZ, south TX, and tropics from Panama to Bolivia. We collected a specimen in Jefferson Davis Parish years ago. We also have fairly extensive experience with Couch's in south TX plus several observed/found in Louisiana over the years, including several specimens collected.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation: none.

b. after observation: LSUMNS specimens.

21. This description is written from:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | notes made during the observation. | Are notes attached? | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | notes made after the observation. | At what date? | 4/28/2019 eBird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | memory | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | study of images of this bird | | |

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: YES.

23. Date: 26 February 2020

Time: 4:00 PM

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? _____ YES _____


If yes, may we include your name with the report? _____ YES _____







Straightened primaries, compressed to compare, oriented as per Pyle.


P10 > P5





