

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: Couch's Kingbird, *Tyrannus couchii*

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1

3. Parish: Lafayette

4. Specific Locality: Parking area of the Wetlands Research Offices on Cajundome Blvd, Lafayette, LA

5. Date(s) when observed: November 5, 2016

6. Time(s) of day when observed: 3: 00 PM

7. Reporting observer and address: Dave Patton, 122 Memory Lane, Lafayette, La 70506

8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s): none

9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Rob Dobbs, found the bird one or two days earlier. The birds location was not announced because of the security concerns of the research facility and restricted access.

10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Full sun and several orientations as the bird relocated in the parking lot.

11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): binoculars and photo lens.

12. Distance to bird(s): Closest distance about 30 feet.

13. Duration of observation: Came into a recording and stayed about 10 minutes before resuming feeding.

14. Habitat: Open fields and parking lot with some young trees spread around area. Several nearby thickets, an office building complex, and an urban subdivision about 100 yards away. Fences and

high wires for perching.

15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Flew into the playing of a recorded Couch's Kingbird. Perched in the top of a young live oak in the parking lot. It would occasionally give the raspy beret call along with the more frequent pip call. It moved away from me as I positioned for a photo, but returned when I played the call a second time. It made several sallies to catch insects, and I lost track of it after a few minutes.

16. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species): Yellow bellied kingbird. Chest bright yellow up to the base of the throat. Pale gray throat. Face gray with a darker region forming a slightly darker mask. Bill looked heavier than a Western Kingbird with a slight curve to the culmen and slight hook at the tip. No white seen along the outer margins of the tail feathers.

17. Voice: Give a frequent pip call note after coming into the playing of a Couch's Kingbird recording. Also gave the raspy beret call a few times.

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Bill looked larger than the Western Kingbird and no white in the outer tail. Quickly responded to the Couch's Kingbird recording. The beret call note is not given by the Tropical Kingbird.

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): photos and short video with vocals recorded by this observer and submitted with this report.

20. Previous experience with this species: A few in Louisiana and south Texas.

21. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification): Sibley's field guide and ibird Plus app on my phone for vocals.

22. Identification aids used when? At time of sighting

23. Date report completed: 12/3/16



