

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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: Couch's Kingbird *Tyrannus couchii*

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

One; stakeout bird.

3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) Calcasieu Parish

Specific Locality: near Bell City, on Rossignol Rd, about one-quarter mile west of the intersection with Lavoie Rd.

4. Date(s) when observed: November 20, 2017

5. Time(s) of day when observed: 9:40am.

6. Reporting observer and address: John Dillon, 183 Dance Rd, Athens, LA 71003

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Gerry Click was with me and saw the bird fly across the road into a Satsuma tree; his view was so brief, I'm not sure he counted the bird on his own list or not.

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): First found, I believe, by Cardiff and Dittmann several weeks prior to my sighting. Also documented by many others.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Partly cloudy, winds 10. Brief sighting of bird was in full sun.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Alpen Rainier 8x10 binoculars, but I saw the bird bare eyes.

11. Distance to bird(s): About 25 feet, maybe a little less.

12. Duration of observation: Seen less than 5 seconds; heard clearly once. Total time birding the spot was 38 minutes, but we could not coax the bird back out.

13. Habitat: Row of medium height trees along road across from home with small Satsuma orchard. Large field immediately south of trees.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): When I saw the bird, I had begun to call in several other species with an EASO imitation. I heard the bird give a call (described below) only one time but from no more than about 20 feet from me. The COKI had an in-air tussle with an Eastern Phoebe for a few seconds about 20-25 feet in front of me, and that's when I saw the bird. We lost it for 5-6 minutes until Gerry saw what he thought was the COKI fly into a Satsuma tree across the road.

15. 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): Robin-sized bird with all bright yellow below. Only seen in mid-air tussle with EAPH for a few seconds. No other distinguishing characteristics seen. Honestly only counted the bird because of the distinctive vocalization and because it was a stakeout bird.

16. Voice: From notes: "Loud somewhat raspy and squeaky descending wee-errr. Only once." Again, this seemed to be in response to my EASO imitation that had begun to draw in several birds, and it was before the bird's fight with the phoebe.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
Vocalization rules out TRKI and WEKI. Larger size rules out other birds with yellow below such as Pine Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, etc. No records of similar kingbirds that I know of reported while this individual was documented by many birders for weeks.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): No.

19. Previous experience with this species: Several in LRGV.

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

a. at time of observation: Checked vocalization records for COKI and TRKI in Sibley app immediately after the bird vocalized.

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from: ___X___ notes made during the observation (___notes attached?); ___notes made after the observation (date: ___); ___memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: Yes, because of the vocalization and because it was a stakeout.

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_____

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