

# 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](mailto: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, age and sex unknown (not juvenile)
3. Parish: Calcasieu  
Specific Locality: Rossignol Rd., 2.2 mi west of Bell City
4. Date(s) when observed: 6 January 2018
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 1:15 pm
6. Reporting observer and address: Erik I. Johnson, 102 Goodwood Cir., Lafayette, LA 70508
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Kimberly Lanka, Marybeth Lima, also David Muth, Mark Meunier, and Joan Garvey in separate car – they located the bird first
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Seen by many over this winter season – I've lost track of who first located and/or reported it. It may be a returnee from a previous winter.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): sunny, early afternoon sun to SSW; looking N/NE to view the bird – excellent lighting
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 x 42 Swarovski EL binoculars, digi-

bin with Samsung S6 smartphone

11. Distance to bird(s): as close as ~100 feet (as measured in Google Earth)

12. Duration of observation: ~10 minutes

13. Habitat: residential/orange orchard, surrounded by mixed hardwood patch and ag lands beyond

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

Foraging/flycatching – long aerial sallies

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, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*):

Obvious “yellow-bellied” kingbird. Bright yellow below extending from vent up through chest. Pale grayish throat and head with slightly darker “mask.” Bill black and relatively large. TAIL BROWNISH-OLIVE (not black). Upperparts dull olive-gray with pale edging to greater coverts.

16. Voice: Not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): From my looks, I could not distinguish it from Tropical Kingbird. I don’t believe that anyone used playback (the bird has been seen and probably harassed a lot this winter). Definitely not a Western or Cassin’s because of the tail color, large bill, and extensive yellow into the chest. I would have reported it as a Couch’s/Tropical, but apparently it has been confirmed by others as Couch’s.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen several Couch’s and Tropical in LA and in south TX; extensive experience with Tropical in multiple trips to Neotropics.

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

a. at time of observation: None.

b. after observation: None.

21. This description is written from:

|                                     |                                    |                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | notes made during the observation. | Are notes attached? | In eBird:<br><a href="http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S41679807">http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S41679807</a> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | notes made after the observation.  | At what date?       |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | memory                             |                     |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | study of images                    |                     |  |

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

23. Date: 20 January 2018

Time: 2:00 pm

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page? Yes

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

