

# 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):

**One adult, unknown sex**

3. Parish: **Vermilion**

Specific Locality: **29.860419°/-92.393928°; ca. 8 mi. W north terminus of Doc Road**

4. Date(s) when observed:

**17 December 2019**

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

**1055-1110**

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: <b>Michael A. Seymour</b>
City: <b>Denham Springs</b>
State: <b>Louisiana</b>

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **N/A**

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): **N/A**

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **Overcast; low contrast lighting**

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

**Binoculars: Vortex 6.5x32 Fury; good condition      Camera: Canon Powershot SX60HS**

11. Distance to bird(s):

60-100'

12. Duration of observation:

~15 minutes

13. Habitat:

shrubby edge of drainage canal levee at edge of managed Live Oak grassland/marsh

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

Bird first observed sitting on exposed branches just above green foliage (~8 ft off ground). It was immediately attacked by a Northern Mockingbird, but returned quickly to same small tree. Single call note heard many times (see below; recorded). I used playback to help ensure identification. It responded vigorously and immediately to Couch's Kingbird song, even singing back (recorded). Seemed to leave perch frequently to snatch insects or fruits, but always on back side of levee (out of view).

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*):

This bird was gray headed with a white chin above an otherwise all bright yellow underside. Strong contrast between gray head and green nape to back. Brown to dark brown flight feathers. White edging on secondaries and rectrices. Black, somewhat deep bill with slight hook; black legs and feet; dark brown irides. See voice section below.

16. Voice: Most obvious call was a "jib" [very similar to Song Sparrow call; I actually had to really concentrate (20+ mph wind gusts) to make sure I wasn't hearing a Song Sparrow. Playback of songs/calls of known Couch's Kingbird elicited calls and songs (recorded).

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Only handful of yellow-bellied kingbirds were considered – Western, Cassin's, Couch's, and Tropical. Eliminated Western based on this bird's lack of bold white outer rectrices on an otherwise dark brown (not black) tail. Cassin's eliminated based on this bird's lack of a very dark head and chest and lack of contrasting chin/chest pattern. Tropical, ultimately, eliminated based on voice.

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

Video (with sound) and still photographs obtained by Michael A. Seymour



19. Previous experience with this species: **None.**

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

a. at time of observation: **Cornell's Merlin iPhone app was used for songs/calls playback**

b. after observation: **various Google searches for images (mostly in attempt to age/sex) and sounds; not really used for identification, as I felt fairly confident in field.**

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images/video		

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

**As certain as could be expected.**

23. Date: **23 December 2019**

Time: **1700**

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

**If photos/videos are published, please credit as "Michael A. Seymour/Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries"**