

# 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): *On individual (sex/age unknown)*
3. Locality: Parish: Cameron  
Specific Locality: LA-717 x Weekly Rd (Klondike area)
4. Date(s) when observed: *18 December 2020 & 3 January 2021*
5. Time(s) of day when observed: *1250-1315 on 18 Dec 2020; 1545-1550 on 3 Jan 2021*
6. Reporting observer and address: *Robert C. Dobbs/LDWF, Lafayette, LA*
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): *none*
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): *Several birders (e.g., David Muth et al.) stopped by and saw/heard bird (based on eBird reports)*
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): *Bright sunlight under clear sky*
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): *Swarovski 10x42 binos (good condition), Canon EF 100-400 mm f/1.4-5.6L IS camera lens (good condition)*
11. Distance to bird(s): *As close as 7-8 m and occasionally as far as 30 m*
12. Duration of observation: *ca. 30 min*

13. Habitat: Hedgerow of tall trees (tallow, oaks, etc) bordering ag (rice, fallow) fields and rural homes/yards

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Perching on and foraging (sallying) from mostly leafless crowns of trees in hedgerow and from powerline

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): Yellow-bellied kingbird with heavy bill (also, bill did not appear notably long), pale gray head with slightly darker gray auriculars and slightly paler throat, lemon yellow breast and belly, greenish back, notched tail without white edges on outer rects.

16. Voice: The bird was giving occasional “kip” calls unsolicited when discovered. Because both Couch’s and Western kingbirds give (similar) “kip” calls, I played back Couch’s vocalizations to try to solicit additional vocal behavior. The bird responded strongly to Couch’s playback, approaching and flying over the speaker, and giving many diagnostic (Couch’s) trilled, descending, and trailing “breer” phrases, which were often preceded by a series of “kips” or double-syllable “pwi-dip” calls that increased in intensity until ending with the “breer” phrase.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): All other yellow-bellied Tyrannus eliminated by diagnostic vocalizations.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Yes, photos and audio recordings by Robert C. Dobbs (please acknowledge Robert C. Dobbs/LDWF if published or posted online). Two audio recordings were obtained: one lower quality on the day of discovery (18 Dec 2020), and a higher quality recording on 3 Jan 2021.

19. Previous experience with this species: Extensive experience with this species, and differentiating voices of it and similar species, in LA and TX

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:   X   notes made during the observation (\_\_\_\_ notes attached?); \_\_\_\_ notes made after the observation (date: \_\_\_\_); \_\_\_\_ memory;   X   images taken during the observation.

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

23. Date:   4 January 2021   Time:   1030 CST  

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  











