

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):
One adult bird. Representative plumage.

3. Parish: Plaquemines

Specific Locality: Diamond, Louisiana, Park/Baseball field

4. Date(s) when observed: Saturday, December 4, 2021

5. Time(s) of day when observed: Approximately 8:30 a.m.

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Jon W. Wise
City: Metairie
State: Louisiana

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

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): None so far.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Cloudy with intermittent sunlight. I was photographing downriver from bird. Winter sun was low in southern sky, to some extent backlighting bird at time of photograph.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon Monarch 8 x 42. Canon EOS Rebel T7i, with 100-600 Tamron lens.

11. Distance to bird(s): About 20 yards at closest approach. No cover and visible, so had

to stay a distance away to avoid bird from moving.

12. Duration of observation: Five minutes.

13. Habitat: Bird was perched on wire attached to light pole and running to ground. On edge of unmowed field immediately upriver of parking area. Mixture of tall grasses and bushes. Abundance of gnats and other insects.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird flew from the direction of the river road and lit on the wire. While observing, it flew up a couple of times in insect chasing behavior and back to original perch. After last photograph, it flew to a more distant perch on another pole in the field.

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*): I had been looking at Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and Western Kingbirds for the previous half hour. As I was heading back to car, I saw this bird fly up. I initially thought it was a Western Kingbird; however, I did notice that its breast appeared a brighter yellow and that the yellow went farther up the breast, to a very pale, whitish throat. I also noted that the bill seemed thick and shorter than the other kingbirds. The body shape did not seem as thick as I associated with Couch's or Tropical Kingbirds I have seen in the past. I did notice the forked tail, but did not notice its color until looking at the photos.

16. Voice: Did not vocalize

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): It did not look like the other Western Kingbirds, given the forked tail and what to me is a more gray throat and upper breast on WK. Could not eliminate Tropical Kingbird at the time, but photographs seem to show a more Couch's like shorter and thick bill.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: I have seen Couch's Kingbirds twice in my life, both times in the Lower Rio Grande Valley at birding festivals, where the ID was confirmed by guides.

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

a. at time of observation: National Geographic Field Guide, Ebird

b. after observation: Same as above, plus Sibley and Audubon online.

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		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: I am positive now that it was a Tropical/Couch's Kingbird, based on the comparison of photographs with the various guides and images that clearly differentiate it from a Western Kingbird. I believe that it could be a Couch's based on the bill shape and size in the photographs, but I cannot be sure absent vocalization.

23. Date: December 6, 2021

Time: 11:30 a.m.

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 _____





