

# LBRC Report Form

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
3. Parish:  
Natchitoches
4. Specific Locality:  
Hwy 71 at Saline Bayou
5. Date(s) when observed: 22 December, 2023
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 9:30am
7. Reporting observer: John Dillon
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):  
Jennifer Heard
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):  
N/A
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Mostly cloudy. At first found with the sun to our backs; then it flew to a utility line and was backlit. But distance was less than 40 feet both times, and view was unobscured.
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski 12x50 bins, 1 year old; Nikon P900.
12. Distance to bird(s): Less than 40 feet.
13. Duration of observation: About 10 minutes.
14. Habitat: Large open pasture bordering riparian area along Saline Bayou. Bird was found in old, mature pecan tree along side of highway.
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Heard calling repeatedly, was foraging for flying insects and sallying from tree. Some preening.
16. 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):

From eBird report: "Photos. Vocal rec of chip notes eliminates TRKI. Photos should show bill profile. Not long like some TRKI. Bright yellow bellied kingbird with mostly gray head, paler auriculars and throat, greenish back, darker flight feathers, heard vocalizing first then found in pecan tree by side of highway and next to bayou and "Crawbilly's" closed restaurant." Additionally, after I played COKI chips, the bird called and flew low directly overhead and landed on utility and continued calling.

17. Voice: Heard calling initially. Possibly in response to pishing/screech-owl calls I had been giving about 150 ft away along bayou and to several responding birds. Calls mostly single notes, similar in tone to other tyrant flycatchers like STFL or VEFL. About the same pitch as Song Sparrow.

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):  
TRKI eliminated by vocalization. While bill length is not solely conclusive and can overlap, bill length was not noticeably long. WEKI eliminated because bright yellow extended all the way from base of throat through undertail coverts.

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):  
Photos and one vocal recording on iPhone by me. Attached. Also:  
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S156857839>

20. Previous experience with this species: Have seen several COKI and TRKI in South Texas and at least 2 or 3 COKI in Louisiana. Have had much experience with LBRC reports of them.

21. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):  
Only one was playing/listening to COKI calls on Sibley app.

22. Identification aids used when?  
At time of sighting, After observation

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

24. Date report completed:  
23 December, 2023

25. 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

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





