

## 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, adult plumage
3. Parish:  
Bossier
4. Specific Locality:  
Red River NWR
5. Date(s) when observed: 11/4/23
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 8:51 am
7. Reporting observer: Emily Holcomb
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):  
None
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):  
Caleb Hiers-Persia, Ryan Broussard, Jodie Ford, Bill Wood, Melissa Weaver, Charles Lyon (the last two named were the first to report)
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Very good lighting, sunny day, not in any shade
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Camera with 400mm lens, good condition
12. Distance to bird(s): 10-20ft
13. Duration of observation: 45 mins (off and on)
14. Habitat: Grassy with several short trees (Bird-Banding Trail in Red River NWR)
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Sitting quietly in the top of a tree near the entrance to the trail. Tolerated my presence well and very easy to see. I left it after taking a few pictures to keep from harassing it and went to the end of the trail. On my return, the bird had become more active and was snatching flies out of the air. Seemed to be loosely associated with a group of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and also tolerated many other species, such as House Finches, Mourning Doves, Northern Cardinals, and American Robins. Only bird to show aggression was a Northern Mockingbird, which chased it away.

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):

Kingbird with strikingly yellow breast, gray head, greenish-yellow back. Breast showed no gray of any kind. White throat with weak contrast compared to head. Bill quite thick and longer than eye + lores. Much larger than House Finch that perched beside it (shown in picture).

17. Voice: Silent

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

Low-contrast throat, extent of yellow on breast, and large size of bill seem to rule out Cassin's and Western Kingbird. I ruled out Tropical Kingbird only on the basis of other birders' reports.

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

Photographs obtained by me are included.

20. Previous experience with this species: I found a Couch's Kingbird (originally reported as Couch's/Tropical) on 11/4/14 and relocated it on 1/24/15. I had to rely on the reports of other birders to identify it as Couch's.

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

Stokes' Field Guide, Cornell's All About Birds webpage, other birders (especially Melissa Weaver/Charles Lyon)

22. Identification aids used when?

After observation

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

Fairly certain, but not positive. I don't have good experience distinguishing Couch's from Tropical Kingbird and would not have reported it as Couch's on my own; however, the large number of birders who have reported this bird is a good indication that the ID is correct.

24. Date report completed:

11/5/23

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







