

# 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):  
**2 adults**

3. Parish: Caddo and Bossier Parishes  
Specific Locality: C. Bickham Dickson Park, Caddo Parish  
Red River NWR Headquarters Unit, Bossier Parish

4. Date(s) when observed: November 3, 7, and 12, 2023

5. Time(s) of day when observed: **morning** and afternoon

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer:	Larry R. Raymond
City:	Shreveport
State:	LA

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

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Charles Lyon, Melissa Weaver, John Roosenberg, Rick & Nancy Wallace, Jodie Ford, Emily Holcomb, Bill Wood, Ryan Broussard, Joel Coker

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Fair and clear with excellent light conditions on November 7, 2023; overcast on November 12, 2023

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 x 40B Zeiss binoculars in good

condition; Nikon Camera with 18 – 300 mm lens

11. Distance to bird(s): Within 20 to 25 feet

12. Duration of observation: 30 minutes to 1 hour

13. Habitat: Open field with scattered trees surrounded by forest

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

I was specifically looking for the birds on 7 November in an area where they had been reported. They appeared within a few minutes of occasional playback of their calls. They would primarily perch near top of scattered trees in open areas. On 12 November, no Scissor-tailed Flycatcher seen, but one Couch's perched high in tree with American Robin.

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*):

Larger flycatcher loosely associating with Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. Large bill, bright yellow underneath to throat area, back greenish. Black line through eye. Responded to playback of Couch's Kingbird. Vocalized briefly on three occasions. Sounded like brreer call of Couch's as opposed to twittering call of Tropical. Photos obtained. See <https://ebird.org/checklist/S153969042>

16. Voice: Sounded to me like brreer call of Couch's, but called only briefly a few times. Audio recorded by Ryan Broussard: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S153898291>  
Charles Lyon reported hearing call notes of Couch's: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S153267751>

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

Tropical eliminated by call notes heard by several observers. Amount of yellow on the underside to throat area, slight notch in tail, and darker ear patch ruled out Western.

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

To my knowledge, the two Couch's Kingbird were first found by Charles Lyon and Melissa Weaver in C. Bickham Dickson Park (Caddo Parish) on 28 October 2023

(<https://ebird.org/checklist/S153267751>). The birds were reported again by John Roosenberg and photographed by Rick and Nancy Wallace on 29 October 2023

(<https://ebird.org/checklist/S153360673>). I searched for the birds on 3 November in C. Bickham Dickson Park, but was unable to locate them. However, coming out of the woods in the back of the park, I ran into Jodie Ford who advised me she had just photographed the bird. She pointed it out at a long distance away in the top of a tall canopy tree. I could see the bird and tell from the size of the bill that it was probably the Couch's, but did not see well enough to list. Jodie posted her photo on ebird

(<https://ebird.org/checklist/S153657213>). I am not aware of any other reports from C. Bickham Dickson Park. The birds were then reported by Emily Holcomb in the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters Unit (Bossier Parish) directly across the Red River from C. Bickham Dickson Park. Bill Wood photographed the bird on 5 November in RRNWR. Ryan Broussard obtained audio of the bird on 6 November 2023 in the RRNWR (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S153898291>). I spent more than an hour observing and photographing the birds on 7 November 2023 in the RRNWR

(<https://ebird.org/checklist/S153969042>). I returned to the RRNWR on 12 November 2023 to attempt to document the birds again. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher were gone and I did not initially find the Couch's Kingbird. Reviewing photos I took of American Robin later, I noted the Couch's perched high in a tree (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S154333979>). Joel Coker also reported the Couch's on 12 November and was able to get decent photos (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S154340666>). As far as I can discern, the Couch's have not been seen again.

19. Previous experience with this species: I have seen Couch's a few times in Louisiana.

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

a. at time of observation: None (checked Audubon app on phone)

b. after observation: Sibley's Guide, National Geographic Guide

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	11072023
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 27 November 2023

Time: 1300 hours

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 \_\_\_\_\_