

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Couch's King Bird - *Tyrannus couchii*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
3; adult, yellow breast and belly, gray head, dark brown wings and tail, rather large bill.
3. Parish:
St. Mary Parish
4. Specific Locality:
Martin Ridge Rd (Par Rd 123); 29.877168, -91.455158
5. Date(s) when observed: December 21, 22, 26, 2024
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
7. Reporting observer: LeeAnn Hepler
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
NA
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
Erik Johnson (via Facebook post)
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): All observations were in late afternoon. The bird was seen/photographed from the west, looking east to allow as much light as possible.
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon D7500 DSLR with Nikon Nikkor lens 200-500mm; Images taken at 500 mm and cropped.
12. Distance to bird(s): Varied from 10 yards - 50 yards
13. Duration of observation: 30 minutes to an hour each day (12/21, 12/22, 12/26)
14. Habitat: Area is adjacent to a small park, a large cane field, and the W. Atchafalaya Basin Spillway. Birds mostly seen in tall trees with sparse, winter foliage.
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Birds observed with perching, flying out to catch insects (wasps?). Also observed birds chasing each other. Birds were silent on 12/21/24. Breer calls were heard and recorded on 12/22/24.

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):

Medium sized bird, gray head, large, dark bill, yellow breast and belly, greenish wash over back, dark brown wings and tail.

17. Voice: Breer calls recorded and attached. [coki24hepler.wav](#)



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

Western Kingbird was also present, but was distinguished by gray throat that extended to the breast. Tropical Kingbird was considered due to the large bill, but was later eliminated due to the observed/recorded breer calls.

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

LeeAnn Hepler; attached

20. Previous experience with this species: Yes, I identified my first Couch's Kingbird in February 2022 in St. Mary Parish, which was confirmed by photographs and sound recordings.

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

Merlin Bird ID app, eBird.org, Terrebonne Parish Bird Club Facebook members.

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:

01/07/2025

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







