

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Tropical/Couch's Kingbird Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One individual
3. Parish:
West Feliciana
4. Specific Locality:
Hemingbough Event Center, between the amphitheater and the nearby gazebo
5. Date(s) when observed: November 10, 2024
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 2:38pm EST
7. Reporting observer: Katrina Hashagen
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
none
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
Nick Ramsey-Louisiana Birds on Facebook and James Beck (@jameswbeck) on iNaturalist
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Poor light conditions. It was overcast and the bird was pretty backlit.
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Vorex Diamondback Binoculars and Samsung 22 phone to take photos
12. Distance to bird(s): Bird was about 20ft in a tree the first time in spotted it. It flew to another tree and was about 30ft up.
13. Duration of observation: About 10mins
14. Habitat: Large lake with manicured grounds used for weddings. Surrounding forest was hilly. I've birded here with good results.

15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird was perched in a nearby tree and then flew to another tree where I was able to get photos.

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):

I saw the bird and thought it was another Ea. Bluebird (there were a few flying around) to add to my eBird checklist.

Once I got a good look at it, I noticed it was very yellow in the chest which ruled out the EABL. I looked again thinking it was an Ea. Phoebe but the chest was still way too yellow for the EAPH. It thought the light was playing tricks at first because the bird was backlit.

I had the general idea of what a non-Eastern Kingbird looked like so I quickly checked my bird app to look at the other kinds of Kingbirds looked like. The bird looked like a Western or Tropical/Couch's Kingbird. I knew that was a rare bird for the area and knew I needed to try and get some photos.

Unfortunately, I had left my Nikon camera in the car about a 1/4 mile away. I tried getting photos with my phone camera through my binos but the bird flew away to another tree. Luckily, it flew a much better position and I was able to get a few photos through my binos with my phone. Soon after the bird flew away and I couldn't find it again. I came back about 15 mins later with my actual camera and was unable to relocate the bird.

17. Voice: None. Even if it had called there was a very loud group of Common Grackles nearby to drown it out.

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

Eastern Phoebe- Seemed a little too big for an Eastern Phoebe and very bright yellow on the chest.

Western Kingbird- The yellow chest went pretty far up the chest. The field guides showed the yellow much lower on the chest and not as bright for a Western Kingbird compared to a Tropical/Couch's.

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

Photos were taken with my phone through my binos. The camera I had was in the car a 1/4 mile walk away.

20. Previous experience with this species: None, aside from photos seen on social media birding groups

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

Sibley bird app and Sibley Birds East

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:

11/15/2024

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





