

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> .

1. English and Scientific names: **Tropical/Couch's Kingbird (Tyrannus melancolichus/couchii)**

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): **One, apparent adult, sex undetermined.**

3. Parish: **Plaquemines**

Specific Locality: **Diamond ball park**

4. Date(s) when observed: **24 February 2024**

5. Time(s) of day when observed: **5-5:50pm**

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Dan Lane
City: Baton Rouge
State: Louisiana

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **Cameron Rutt, David Muth, Van Remsen**

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): **unclear, at least two other observers identified Couch's Kingbird at this site, but no one produced documentation.**

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **Late afternoon to sunset.**

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Zeiss 10x40 binocular**

11. Distance to bird(s): **40-150m**

12. Duration of observation: Maybe 20 min during the period given above.

13. Habitat: Perched on wires, fences, and treetops around park.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): My attention was first drawn to the bird by David and Cameron who were watching it through a scope. It then moved around with the Western Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers that were arriving to roost, and we relocated it several times before we left at sunset.

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*): Large yellow-bellied Tyranus. Large bill (making us think it was likely a Tropical), dark, but not black, notched tail. Yellow underparts reaching throat. Green back.

16. Voice: None given, hence the identification to species pair rather than to species. We played back both Tropical and Couch's but the bird did not seem particularly interested.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Bill size, tail shape and color, and lack of grayish breast eliminate Western and Cassin's (both present for comparison, to boot). Bill too heavy for White-throated.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photographs on the following eBird list:
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S162901470>

19. Previous experience with this species: Extensive with both in Louisiana, Texas, Mexico

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification): None.

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

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

study of images

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

23. Date: 30 March 2024

Time: 7:55pm

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 _____







