

# 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/Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii/melancholicus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
1, probably "adult" (definitive basic) female
3. Parish: Jefferson  
Specific Locality: Levee across from Jefferson Park, River Rd. (29.955676, -90.165250)
4. Date(s) when observed: 26 November 2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 1:20 pm
6. Reporting observer and address: Erik I. Johnson, 102 Goodwood Cir., Lafayette, LA 70508
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Reported by Peter Yaukey at 10:00 am on same day. I believe several others saw the bird after me over a period of several days.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): sunny, early afternoon light. Often looking into the sun, but saw it from various angles.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 x 40 Eagle Optics binoculars.

11. Distance to bird(s): 25 ft at the closest

12. Duration of observation: 55 minutes

13. Habitat: mowed grass on levee, with willow-dominated batture inside river levee and residential outside river levee.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): The bird was actively foraging, primarily from power lines, but sometimes also the tops or near tops of batture trees. It caught several paper wasps and perhaps a beetle or two. Made long sallying flights (>200 m) out and returned to similar location with prey. Good study for nearly an hour. Bird was silent entire time. Took a series of videos with my smart phone through my wife's binoculars, as I didn't have any of my gear with me (just visiting family in Kenner for the day).

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*): Tail greenish-brownish (not black) without white edging or tip, and notably notched. Yellow in underparts extends through the chest. Bill large and heavy. Stills from video suggest outer primaries were female-like, without distinct notches. No eccentric type molt limits visible - wings looked blackish and adult-like (definitive cycle basic plumage)? Wing formula might also suggest Couch's with relatively long p5, but angles hard to confirm this.

16. Voice: Not heard, even with attempts of Couch's and Tropical Kingbird playback. Didn't approach to either call.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): I could lean toward Couch's Kingbird on this, but would not claim it so without confirmation of a call/vocalization. Not Western or Cassin's Kingbirds by olive-brown (not black) tail and heavy bill. Yellow also brighter into upper chest area.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, stills taken from digi-bined video with cell phone. <https://vimeo.com/147106877>

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen both species several times over the last few years in Louisiana, and very familiar with Tropical Kingbird from long periods of time spent in Costa Rica and Amazonian Brazil. Not particularly skilled at distinguishing the two by sight only.

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

a. at time of observation: Used Smartphone apps for call notes.

b. after observation: none

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?	24 Nov 2015
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 24 Jan 2016

Time: 9:40 am

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? Yes

If yes, may we include your name with the report? Yes



