

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: Couch's Kingbird Tyrannus couchii
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One adult seen
3. Parish: Jefferson Davis
Specific Locality: On a fence at North Adams Street and Pecan Orchard Road, at 30.26098, 92.82161 latitude and longitude.
4. Date(s) when observed: January 28, 2019
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 9:45 am

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Ken Oeser
City: Hendersonville
State: Tennessee

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Robert Van Fleet was with me and observed the bird, but is not experienced enough to know it was more than a yellow-bellied kingbird.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): The bird was sitting on a fence, in the open in the sunshine. Several angles available, but my only photos are with the front in sunshing and rear in shade of the bird.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Canon EOS 70D with 15-600mm Tamron lens
11. Distance to bird(s): 100 feet

12. Duration of observation: 5 minutes

13. Habitat: In an open area next to the road, with a small orchard just north, and a thick area of shrubs and trees just west across the road, where it flew to a high branch of a tall tree.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): The bird was diving to the grass a few times to catch some sort of insect/food.

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*): Yellow on back and lack of white tail stripes eliminate Western Kingbird. Looking at Sibley's guide, the back looks more yellow than Tropical Kingbird, and the bill shorter and thicker, unlike the longer and thinner bill of an adult Tropical Kingbird. If the Sibley's images are correct, both of these traits indicate Couch's Kingbird, as seen in my two photos.

16. Voice: The bird did not call while I was observing it.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Western Kingbird: no white on tail while perched or in flight, and yellow/green on back instead of gray on western. Tropical Kingbird: This bird has a slightly thicker and shorter bill than the more slender bill of Tropical, and the back on this bird has more yellow than the greener back of Tropical.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen and photographed in south Texas on many trips.

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

The Sibley Guide to Birds

a. at time of 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		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

I am not 100% positive due to lack of vocalization, but according to the physical differences in back/wing yellowness and bill size/shape seen in my photos, if Sibley's Guide is reliable, I feel confident in the identification.

23. Date: January 31, 2019

Time: 7:40 pm

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_____



