

# 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 Kingbird, *Tyrannus couchii*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 Male

3. Parish: Cameron Parish

Specific Locality: Peveto Woods

4. Date(s) when observed: May 17 & 18, 2020

5. Time(s) of day when observed: May 17 afternoon, May 18 morning

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Bernard Jacoby
City: Lake Charles
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Heather & Jack Amuny

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Heather & Jack Amuny, Maria Bellue. Heather, Jack and Maria were the first to encounter the Kingbird on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Heather emailed me her photos that evening, and I went to Peveto Woods early Monday morning and we saw the Kingbird together.

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

**May 17:**

Afternoon light was pleasant and bright, not harsh. Backdrop was tree trunk and foliage, providing excellent contrast.

**May 18:**

Kingbird was on a perch with backlit morning light.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

I don't know the other birders' equipment, but I use very good condition Vortex Diamondback 10X50 HD

11. Distance to bird(s): Varied, 20-50 yards

12. Duration of observation:

Not sure of May 17 observation, but it must have been sustained for quite some time to get such good photographs. May 18 sighting was brief, only for a minute.

13. Habitat:

Deciduous seaside woods

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

May 17 behavior was feeding, resting. Video shows some nervousness especially when a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was calling. May 18 was brief. He flew to perch and remained for only a minute, then flew off.

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*):

Definitely a kingbird, with typical kingbird profile and behavior. Bright yellow underbelly all the way up to white throat, eliminating Western Kingbird. Yellow from breast to throat has hints of olive. Brown back with some olive wash. Tail is narrow, with shallow notch, bill heavier than Western, but does not appear as heavy and long as Tropical

16. Voice:

Non-vocal

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

See item 15. Clearly not Western Kingbird; no white tail sides, tail was not blackish, notched tail too deep for Western. Western has white breast up to throat.

Tropical Kingbird has much wider tail with a deeper notch. Tropical bill is heavier and longer. Unfortunately did not hear it call or sing, which is the unmistakable distinguishing mark.

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

Photographs/videos by Heather Amuny and Maria Bellue, already sent via email.

I have one photo from my sighting, which I am including here. It is not the best photo since there is some backlighting, and I was unable to make a setting change in the camera to compensate before the bird flew off. I am including the original unretouched JPG. I have the raw image as

well, but I don't think it is necessary to provide it since there are so many better photos.



19. Previous experience with this species:

This was my second sighting for Tropical/Couch's. I saw a Tropical Kingbird in McAllen, TX, of which I have a photo. The tail is clearly wider and more deeply notched, and the bill is heavier and longer.

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

a. at time of observation:

Sibley's, Merlin app, Heather and Jack Amuny

b. after observation:

Sibley's, <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/crows/kingbirdsX.htm>, my other photos from McAllen Tx. I also consulted with a bird biologist who has considerable field experience distinguishing between these two Kingbirds, and her analysis of the photos is that this species is Couch's

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 cannot say 100% positive since we did not hear its voice, but from Cornell link above it most certainly seems to be Couch's

23. Date: May 17<sup>th</sup> late afternoon, May 18<sup>th</sup> about 9am.

Time:

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, although the photos are not mine \_\_\_\_\_

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