

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

1. **English and Scientific names:** Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage:** 1 adult
3. **Parish:** Orleans  
**Specific Locality:** Lake Pontchartrain levee just north of I-10 crossing at South Point.
4. **Date(s) when observed:** Nov. 26 and 28, 2020 vocalizing, but see discussion of earlier sighting of what was presumably this individual. My non-vocalizing sightings were 11/24/19 <https://ebird.org/checklist/S61722199>; 01/16/21 <https://ebird.org/checklist/S79327265>; and 01/23/21 <https://ebird.org/checklist/S79752885>.
5. **Time(s) of day when observed:** various
6. **Reporting observer and city/state address**  
David P. Muth  
2765 Orchid St.  
New Orleans, LA 70119  
[muthd@nwf.org](mailto:muthd@nwf.org)
7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):** Peter Yaukey 11/26 and John Nelson 11/28/20.
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):** Tom and Jennifer Coulson 2/19/19 were the first to report vocalizations of a Tropical/Couch's from this location.
9. **Light:** various
10. **Optical equipment:** Eagle Optics 10x50
11. **Distance to bird(s):** various
12. **Duration of observation:** various
13. **Habitat:** A narrow strip of willow and other early successional trees between levee and marsh on both sides of levee; also more mature woods along Crabbing Bridge Road.

**14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation:** A Tropical/Couch's had been being reported here since each winter since Dec. 23, 2017 during the New Orleans CBC. It was notoriously silent, but on 2/19/19 Jennifer Coulson reported in Ebird: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S52929154> that it vocalized with TRKI calls. I therefore fully expected the bird to be a Tropical Kingbird (given that I have observed dozens of TRKI with Jennifer and Tom in Belize, Costa Rica, Panama and Ecuador), but am also fully cognizant of how often what appears to be one kingbird turns out to be more than one, as demonstrated by the WEKI that loosely joined the TRKI this winter.

## 15. Description:


CHECKLIST S76732008  
**Thu 26 Nov 2020** 7:28 AM [Edit date and effort](#)  
**Bayou Sauvage NWR--lake levee** [Orleans Parish, Louisiana, United States](#) [Edit location](#)

**David Muth** [Share](#)  
**Traveling** Complete   
1 2 hr, 56 min 1.2 mi

Google Map Data 1 km Terms of Use

eBird Mobile Tracks [+ Large map](#)

Fog early, still, 68. Then north winds picked up and fog lifted somewhat. Modest flight. With PY, JG, MMe, RS and BL for part of time. See more complete S Pt list.  
Submitted from eBird for Android, version 2.4  
[Edit comments](#)

 **49**  
**Species observed**  
+1 other taxa  
702 individuals

1	<b>Black-bellied Whistling-Duck</b>
5	<b>Snow Goose</b> 3 in flight at the point in fog; two at I-10 on levee.
12	<b>Gadwall</b>
2	<b>Mottled Duck</b>
75	<b>Lesser Scaup</b>
5	<b>Bufflehead</b>
13	duck sp.
1	<b>White-winged Dove</b>
35	<b>Common Gallinule</b>
5	<b>American Coot</b>

Details: Presumed returnee on levee between I-10 and powerlines. There has been a Tropical/Couch's Kingbird here each winter since the NO CBC 12/23/2017 (RDP and DN). It has been stubbornly silent, though on 2/19/19 Jennifer and Tom Coulson reported hearing TRKI vocalizations. Today Peter Yaukey relocated the bird. Peter and I spent about 30 minutes watching it and photographing it actively flycatching along both sides of the levee up to the power line from I-10. It ignored a couple of played TRKI and COKI vocalizations.

However, at the end of the 30 minutes, with no playback provocation from us, it gave two brief bursts of the typical TRKI high musical twitter, calls with which I am very familiar. See photos.

Media:



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CHECKLIST S76816197

Sat **28 Nov 2020** 7:39 AM [Edit date and effort](#)

**Bayou Sauvage NWR--lake levee** 📍 Orleans Parish, Louisiana, United States [Edit location](#)

**David Muth** [Share](#)

John Nelson 📱

**Traveling** Complete ⓘ

👤 2 ⌚ 1 hr, 10 min 📶 1.2 mi

Google Map Data 1 km Terms of Use

📍 eBird Mobile Tracks [+ Large map](#)

66 NNE 8 cloudy. About 35 minutes at point with over 500 birds crossing. Brief overlap with PY there.

Submitted from eBird for Android, version 2.4

[Edit comments](#)

**39** Species observed  
+1 other taxa  
836 individuals

50	<b>Gadwall</b>
3	<b>Bufflehead</b>
50	duck sp.
20	<b>Common Gallinule</b>
4	<b>American Coot</b>
6	<b>Killdeer</b>
5	<b>Laughing Gull</b>
1	<b>Ring-billed Gull</b>
5	<b>Herring Gull</b>
1	<b>Caspian Tern</b>

## Tropical Kingbird

**Number observed:1**

Details: Twitter calls. Stakeout. Just missed getting calls recorded. See photos.

Media:



16. **Voice:** A high musical twittering heard on Nov. 26 and Nov. 28. On the 26<sup>th</sup> with P. Yaukey it called spontaneously several minutes after I had played calls of both species without a response. On the 28<sup>th</sup> Nelson and I were driving out of the South Point area when we heard it through the open car window. We jumped out and tried to turn on recording devices but it went silent.

17. **Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):** Couch's eliminated by calls.

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

19. **Previous experience with this species:** very extensive

20. **Identification aids:** None. I have not spent any time trying to see what could be discerned from the photos of plumage.

a. **at time of observation:**

b. **after observation:**

21. **This description is written from:** se above

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

23. **Date:** 02/18/21

**Time:** 1845 h.

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