

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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

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.
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) _____ Calcacieu _____
Specific Locality: _____ Rossignol Rd between Bell City and Fruge Rd. _____
4. Date(s) when observed: 28 October, 4 November 2017, 13 January 2018
5. Time(s) of day when observed: about 5:45pm (2017 visits), 4:20pm on 13 Jan 2018.
6. Reporting observer and address: Daniel Lane
LSU Museum of Natural Science, Baton Rouge, LA 70803
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Cory Gregory, Van Remsen, Paul Conover, Markie Mutchler, Gary Byerly, various tour participants.
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): Bird originally discovered in 2017 by Donna Dittmann and Steve Cardiff. Seen by various observers.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Late afternoon light with mostly clear skies, direct sun.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10x40 binoculars, Swarovski 85mm angled telescope with 25-60X eyepiece.
11. Distance to bird(s): between 15-50 meters
12. Duration of observation: in total, about 15 minutes.

13. Habitat: disturbed woodland and field edge with several houses and lawns, small grove of Citrus trees, telephone wires.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): In all three observations, the bird was first brought in with playback of Couch's Kingbird, to which it responded aggressively, including calling. It perched at crowns of trees and on wires when first coming into view, retreating into tree interiors and perching lower once settling down. Some foraging maneuvers were observed when it pounced on unidentified prey items on ground.

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): a large tyrannid with gray head, yellow belly, greenish back. Tail is brownish and deeply notched. Bill not quite as long as head and thick-based. Slightly darker mask on lores and on upper auriculars.

16. Voice: A buzzy "tr-ZEEeeeer" and "kip!" notes given in response to playback. Not sound recorded.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Western Kingbird differs by tail pattern, whiter throat and upper breast, and voice. Tropical usually has a longer bill and very different vocalizations.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, photographs by Cory Gregory from the 2017 observations and by DFL and Van Remsen from 2018 observation. See following eBird lists:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S40217282>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S40348098>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S41878569>

19. Previous experience with this species: Extensive, including seeing the species in two previous years in Louisiana, various times in Texas, as well as Mexico and Belize.

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

a. at time of observation: none.

b. after observation: none.

21. This description is written from: _____ notes made during the observation (____ notes attached?); _____ notes made after the observation (date: _____);

_X_memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter: Daniel Lane Date: 14 Jan 2018 Time: 7:15

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

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