

LBRC Report Form

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
3. Parish:
St. Landry
4. Specific Locality:
Land of Lakes Farm
5. Date(s) when observed: 9 February 2025
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 13:00
7. Reporting observer: Van Remsen
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
Esme Rosen, Vinay Laxminarayan, Karthik Thrikkadeeri
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Not good but sufficient for seeing critical details -- see photos
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x50 Swarovski, Nikon P950
12. Distance to bird(s): 100 ft?
13. Duration of observation: probably about 2 minutes
14. Habitat: patch of bottomland hardwood forest at the edge of crawfish farm complex
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): I saw an "interesting" bird fly across the levee and when I found where it landed (canopy) it was immediately clear it was a yellow-bellied kingbird, and with a slightly better angle I

could see it was a Tropical/Couch's by tail color and face pattern. I also thought that it was Couch's by bill shape -- not long and big enough for typical Couch's. Looking at my photos in the viewfinder confirmed the assessment through binoculars -- almost certainly Couch's by bill criteria. Fortunately, it then called perhaps 5 times over the next couple of minutes, giving sharp "kip!" calls. Esme Rosen heard it first and pointed it out. Karthik and Vinay could hear it. I think I could hear it, barely, but at this point I can't actually remember if I heard it well enough to ID it if I hadn't been with others. Unfortunately, by the time I got the video rolling (uploaded), it stopped calling and flew off out of sight shortly thereafter.

16. 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):

Obvious yellow-bellied kingbird immediately distinguishable from Western by brown tail and big bill and from Cassin's by minimal head-throat contrast. Bill did not appear long enough for typical Tropical. See photo and video for details.

17. Voice: Diagnostic "kip" calls heard, much lower-pitched and more abrupt than TRKI. Esme Rosen's report should have a better description

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
See #16 above

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):
Yes -- photos and video uploaded

[VIDEO](#)

20. Previous experience with this species: 10 previous documented records in Louisiana (fide My eBird) plus a number of them seen in south Texas

21. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
none

22. Identification aids used when?
None used

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

Yes

24. Date report completed:

21 May 2025

25. 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

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

Yes

