

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Tropical/Couch's Kingbird
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1
3. Parish:
Cameron
4. Specific Locality:
Deep Bayou Road, approximately 1700 feet from Hwy 82, GPS 29.767331, -93.752865.
There was a little fenced in equipment area with a drive/pull off I was able to park on.
The bird was high in the trees to the west of there.
5. Date(s) when observed: 10.24.2025
6. Time(s) of day when observed: approximately 8:45am
7. Reporting observer: Kathy Rhodes
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
No one
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
None. I sent photos to Jack Rogers, Paul Conover and Steve Cardiff. All agree to put as "slash" since I did not hear vocalization.
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Good light. Sun behind me and in front of the bird high on a tree top.
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon Coolpix B600 camera and Nikon Prostaff 3s Binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): Guessing 200 feet give or take a little
13. Duration of observation: maybe 3 minutes before the bird flew off
14. Habitat: Marshy fields with trees. Road has a few houses early on. There was an

15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird was on top of a tree. It sallied once and returned to same perch. It was partially obscured by foliage at times. There were many STFL nearby also flying around. Once it flew off, I never laid eyes on it again.

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):

I was driving slowly down the road. The sun was shining brightly. I spotted a bright yellow bird on top of a tree and was able to pull off. I focused on taking photos. I knew it was a Couch's or Tropical Kingbird from the get go. I so wanted it to be a tropical as I needed that for a year bird. I never really obtained a full side view which would help. I find the bill on on the longer end but could be medium, the head seems flatter, I see little contrast from wing to body and I see a strongly notched tail. This leads me to Tropical. But I don't see a wash on the top of the chest by the neck. So that leads me to Couch's. Thus the "slash" designation.

17. Voice: I did not hear it. It had already flown off when I tried playing calls for both species. I never saw the bird again.

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

Western Kingbird which is more gray overall. And although I only have one shot of the tail feathers, there are no white on out edge.

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

By me, Kathy Rhodes

20. Previous experience with this species: I have seen both Couch's and Tropical Kingbirds a good number of times

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

I communicated with other birders as mentioned above. Once home, I used the Cin-Ty Lee North American Flycatchers Kingbirds and Myiarchus to compare species.

22. Identification aids used when?

After observation

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

Yes, but am hoping it can be positively ID'd based on photos and without voice if possible. If it can, please let me know. Thanks.

24. Date report completed:

10.27.2025

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



