

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 information involving an observation is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of fieldnotes, 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:** White-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*)
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2 ad.in breeding or alternate plumage):** 1 adult
3. **Locality:** LOUISIANA; Jefferson Davis Par.;
(parish)

Welsh Landfill, 1 mi. N I-10 between Welsh and Lacassine exits
(specific locality)
4. **Date(s) when observed:** 15 December 1995
5. **Time(s) of day when observed:** 12:15-1:00 PM (off and on continuously from 12:15-12:30)
6. **Reporting observer and address:** Donna L. Dittmann and Steven W. Cardiff, Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70803
7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):** none
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):** none
9. **Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):** good light
10. **Optical equipment (type, power, condition):** 10 X 42 Leica binocular; Kowa telescope
11. **Distance to bird(s):** varied during observation, as close as 100 yds.
12. **Duration of observation:** 45 min.
13. **Habitat:** agricultural area (fallow fields) adjacent to landfill and bisected by high tension/utility wires.

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

first seen sitting on ground, flushed from along roadside, flew to powerlines, observed in flight as moved from utility line to line

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possibly: 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):

Buteo. Knew it was something "good" immediately. Combination of gray head and back, dull rusty shoulders, white underparts without any markings, white tail with narrow distinct subterminal band, underwings with a Swainson's Hawk-like pattern of dark primaries/secondaries and white wing linings eliminated all possible species (see attached notes drawn in filed); correspondingly heavier in body than Swainson's Hawk, no sign of molt in wings or tail, flies and glides with wings held at dihedral

16. Voice: silent

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

No other *Buteo* has similar pattern

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

by SWC attached

19. Previous experience with this species:

both observers have seen White-tailed Hawks in Texas.

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 made (immediately) after the observation (date: _____); memory (from slides).

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

23. Signature of reporter: Donald Dittman 9/07
(date) (time)

100 yd →

WTHA

15 Dec. 1995

1215-100
off and on / contin.
1215-1230



gray head
back
dull rusty

white tail



narrow solid black band

first seen sitting on ground
no sign molt
then to power lines

correspondingly heavier bodied than SWTH



gray head
light greenish-yellow cere
small bill

dull rusty
no chest markings
legs feet

little
back
cover
Etail

appearance very white



rounded
not pints like SWTH

thin dark borders
flies / glides wings at dihedral

landfill
1 mi. N I/O
& between Welsh
& Lacassine x.

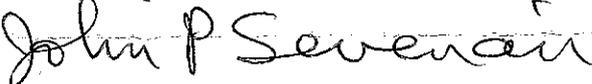
**REPORT TO THE
LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE**

1. Common and scientific name:
White-tailed Hawk, *Buteo albicaudatus*
2. Number of individuals seen, sexes, ages, general plumage, etc.
One adult bird
3. Locality:
About half way between I-10 and the Welsh landfill to its north in Jefferson Davis Parish, LA.
4. Date(s) when seen:
December 17, 1995
5. Times of day when seen:
About 11:30 AM
6. Reporting observer and address:
John P. Sevenair, 325 Stafford Place, New Orleans, LA 70124
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
None. I met two ladies there, and we chatted; I've forgotten their names.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
Many. I believe that the bird was found by Steve Cardiff and Donna Dittmann on 12/15/95, and that many people who were attending the Sabine and Johnson's Bayou Christmas Bird Counts saw the bird.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and amount of light):
The bird was in the open. There was a very dark cloud front overhead, and despite the near-noon time of the sighting the amount of light was so low that colors were hard to distinguish.
10. Optical equipment:
Zeiss 7x42 binoculars.
Bushnell Spacemaster scope with 20x eyepiece.
11. Distance to bird:
About 150 to 300 feet
12. Duration of observation:
About 15 minutes
13. Habitat (general and specific):
The bird was perched on a power line pole complex. The surrounding area consisted primarily of rice fields, dry at this time of year. There was some scrub and small trees along the roads and ditches.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):
The bird sat on the first power pole east of the road for a while, and then flew to the next pole to the east.
15. Description (Include what was actually seen, not what should have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc.

This was a bird of substantial size, roughly that of the Red-tailed Hawks that were fairly common in the area. By its general shape and silhouette, and its short, hooked beak, it was a raptor.

The face and the top of the head were dark, with a small paler area around the beak. The back and the upper surfaces of the wings were also dark. The breast and belly were white. The rump and tail were also primarily white; the tail had a

narrow dark terminal band. The feet and legs were pale rather than dark. The tail was noticeably shorter than that of most raptors (especially Red-tailed Hawk).

16. Voice:
Not heard
17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observations):
The plumage pattern, as far as I saw it under poor conditions, is that of White-tailed Hawk. The shortness of the tail in this bird helps to distinguish this bird from that highly variable species, the Red-tailed Hawk.
18. Photographs:
None were taken while I was there.
19. Previous experience with this species:
My only previous sighting of this species was in Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge in 1984.
20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification
 - a) At the time of observation:
None
 - b) After observation:
The National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, second edition.
21. This description written from: Notes made during observation; notes made after observation; memory.
A copy of the notes is enclosed.
22. Are you positive of your identification? yes If not, explain:
23. Signature of reporter:

24. Date and time of writing this account:
December 20, 1995, at 12:00 noon.

11:30

short tail, white
white rump black
dark color? band

mantle
dark face

smallish
beak

pale breast

bushy, dark clouds
viewing clouds,
~15 min.

perched on power
line, flew

Louisiana Ornithological Society's

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Report Form

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1. English and Scientific names: *White-tailed Hawk*
Buteo albicaudatus
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): *1 adult*
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: *Aeff Davis*
(parish)
sitting on power poles to the right of Lone Pine Rd.
(specific locality)
4. Date(s) when observed: *18 December, 1995*
5. Time(s) of day when observed: *8:35^{am} - 8:55^{am}*
6. Reporting observer and address:
Matthew Pontiff
742 Bill Churchman Loop
DeRidder, LA 70634
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
Ron Stein, Melvin Weber, Gary Pontiff, Judy Fruge, Mariana Tanner
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
Ron Stein, Melvin Weber
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): *bird in no shade & in pretty good light in all directions*
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
Kowa TSN 2, Swift Ultralight 10x42
11. Distance to bird(s):
100 yds is closest
12. Duration of observation:
20 minutes
13. Habitat: *marshy area*

14. **Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation** (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):
bird was first seen resting on a power pole. It then flew to a tree before flying back to a power pole.
15. **Description** (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; include if possibly: 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): white underparts. white tail ending with a subterminal band which is black. Chesnut patch around the shoulders. Black secondaries. Gray back & around cheek. Wings look long & tail looks short.
16. **Voice:** none heard
17. **Similar species** (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Short-tailed Hawk has stripes through all of tail & lacks chesnut shoulders. Swainson's has chest band. Gray Hawk has gray breast. Ferruginous Hawk lacks black tail band & dark secondaries, also has rufous thighs & back.
18. **Photographs or tape recordings obtained?** (by whom? attached?):
No photos by people in this group.
19. **Previous experience with this species:**
NONE
20. **Identification aids:** (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
a. at time of observation: *NG Birds of NA*
b. after observation: *Birds of Prey, Lowrey - LA Birds, Peterson - TX, Peterson - West, ~~Ords~~*
21. This description is written from: notes made during the observation (notes attached?); notes made after the observation (date:); memory.
22. **Are you positive of your identification?** If not, explain: *Yes*
23. **Signature of reporter:** *[Signature]* 12/18/95 7:30 p.m.
(date) (time)

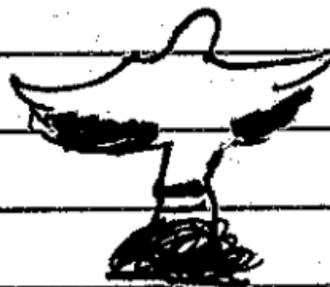
White-tailed Hawk

White underparts, white tail ending
w/ black band → 

In flight, white tail very visible,
rusty shoulders.

8:35 - 8:55

Ron Stein

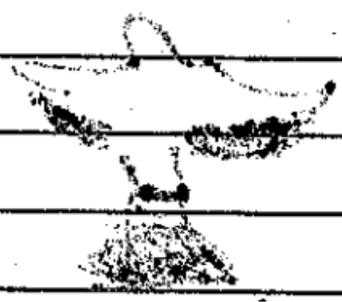


Lone Pine Rd
100 yds

Matthew Rouliff

White - white - white

White - white - white
White - white - white
White - white - white
White - white - white



White - white

White - white
White - white

White - white

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographs, etc.; include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to the Secretary of the LOS Bird Records Committee.

1. Common and scientific name: White-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 ad.
3. Locality: Louisiana: LA Parish: Jeff Davis
North of I-10 between Lacassine and Welsh Exits; near dump
4. Date(s) when seen: December 17, 1995
5. Times of day when seen: 3:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6. Reporting observer and address: Phillip Wallace
4515 S. Priour St., N.O., LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird: David Math,
Peter Yankee, Don Norman, Curt Sorensen, Mac Myers
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: Steve Candi AR, Donna Dittmann
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Overcast
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Bushnell spacemaster 22X
11. Distance to bird: 300 yds.
12. Duration of observation: 30 min.
13. Habitat (general and specific): Perched on power pole above
plowed (fallow?) field
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): Resting
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):
Head, back, wings - gray; dark malar patch extends onto upper throat
Wings - rusty shoulder patch; wings extend 3+ inches beyond tail
Breast and belly - white; faint gray vermiculation on flanks
Tail - white, with narrow black subterminal band and white terminal band
Bill - small, blue-gray

16. Voice: None

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

Tail pattern and back pattern eliminate similar North American species; primary extension beyond tail also significant.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?): ?

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen in Texas.

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification

a) at time of observation;

None

b) after observation:

21. This description written from: notes made during observation; notes made after observation; memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter: *Philp Wallace*

24. Date and time of writing this account:

March 7, 1986

6:50 am

~~December 17, 1~~