

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
REPORT FORM

1. **Common and scientific name:** White-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*)
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage:** 1 adult plumage
3. **Locality: State (Louisiana) Parish:** Jefferson Davis  
**Exact Location:** Landfill Road
4. **Date(s) seen:** December 10, 2000
5. **Time(s) of day seen:** 2:15 - 2:50 p.m.
6. **Reporting observer and address:** Phillip Wallace  
4515 S. Prieur St.  
New Orleans, LA 70125-5044
7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:** None
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird:** Dan Purrington and James Beck saw the bird later.
9. **Light conditions:** Good; sun was to the left of the line of sight.
10. **Optical equipment:** Zeiss 10 x 40 bins; Kowa scope
11. **Distance to the bird:** 100-200 yards
12. **Duration of observation:** 35 minutes
13. **Habitat (general and specific):** Perching on powerline arm and soaring over harvested cane fields.
14. **Behavior:** Perching, flying.
15. **Description:**  
*Size and General Impression* Large buteo.  
*Head* Head was darker gray than back.  
*Upper Parts* Upper parts were pale gray.  
*Wings* In flight: The fore part of the underwings (wing linings) was white. The posterior part of the underwings (primaries and secondaries) was dark. The upperwings showed rufous markings in the fore part of the upperwings. When soaring, the wings were held horizontal or at a slight dihedral. At rest: The wings extended well past the tail (This was

noted at 200 yards distance with 60x zoom). Wings tended to droop below the plane of the tail.

*Underparts* The underparts appeared pure white from a distance, but showed some gray streaks on the flanks with zoom.

*Tail* The tail was pure white, with the exception of a narrow, dark subterminal band. Appeared short-tailed in flight.

*Bill* Not noted

*Eye* Not noted.

*Legs* Yellow

**16. Voice:** None

**17. Similar species and how they were eliminated:** An adult White-tailed Hawk is rather distinctive. The tail pattern and upper part coloration, with rufous patch, distinguish it from all other buteos.

**18. Photographs?** Photo taken through scope with point-and-shoot camera accompanies this report. *plus 1 slide.*

**19. Previous experience with this species:** I've seen in Texas and once before at this same location.

**20. Aids used in identification:**

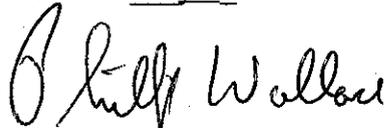
a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: Clark

**21. This description written from:**   x   notes made during observation; \_\_\_\_\_ notes made after observation; \_\_\_\_\_ from memory.

**22. Are you positive of your identification?**   yes  

**23. Signature of reporter:**



**24. Date and time of writing this account:** March 3, 2001  
10:00 a.m.

White-tailed Hawk

12/10/00

(SM)  
2:15 - 2:50 there

Light govt.

Landfill Road - Powerlines  
(East west of Landfill Rd - over line of  
harvested Corn fields)

Sun to left of  
sight.

100 - 200 yds

Adult

(medium)  
Pale gray upper-parts;

Darker gray

head; underparts appear pure white from  
a distance, but show wavy gray streaks  
on flanks.

Tail pure white with narrow dark  
subterminal band.

Underwings were white forepart (wing  
lining) and dark posterior (primaries and  
secondaries)

In flight, when bird wheeled, obvious  
markings were seen on the part of upper wing

Large butes?

At rest, wings extend well past tail  
(distinct when - 200 yds) Wings droop below plane  
Yellow legs White throat of tail.

When soaring wings held horizontal  
to a slight dihedral;

Short tailed.

Louisiana Ornithological Society's  
LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## Rare Bird 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 ensure that all information involving an observation is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach fieldnotes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for 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, age, sex, general plumage (e. g., "2 adult males in alternate <breeding> plumage"): 1 ADULT
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: JEFFERSON DAVIS  
(parish)  
LANDFILL RD., ~ 3 MILES NW OF WELSH I-10 EXIT  
(specific locality)
4. Date(s) when observed: \* 23 DECEMBER 2000
5. Time(s) of day when observed: ~ 7:45-8:00 AM
6. Reporting observer and address:  
JOSEPH P. KLEIMAN  
15913 MALVERN HILL  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70817
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):  
KAREN FAY, MARTY GUIDRY
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):  
PHILIP WALLACE FOUND BIRD WEEKEND OF 9 DECEMBER
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): SUN AT OUR BACK, EARLY MORNING LIGHT
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):  
LEICA TELEVID, 20X60 ZOOM, EXCELLENT - ZEISS 10X40 GOOD
11. Distance to bird(s):  
~ 300 YDS
12. Duration of observation:  
~ 15 MINUTES

\* KAREN & I HAD LOOKED FOR THIS SPECIES ON 3 DECEMBER AT THIS LOCATION WITH NO LUCK. I THINK WE WOULD HAVE FOUND IT IF IT HAD BEEN HERE.

13. Habitat: BRUSHY AREA ALONG POWER LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY
14. Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding the observation):  
PERCHED ON POWER LINE POLE, FLEW DOWN TO GROUND SEVERAL TIMES
15. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; if possible, give details on 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. Attach additional pages as necessary):  
A LARGE BUTED, WHOSE WINGS EXTENDED BEYOND TAIL WHEN PERCHED. DARK HEAD, GRAY UPPER PARTS, WHITE BELOW. RUFOUS SHOULDERPATCH, TAIL WAS WHITE WITH BLACK TERMINAL BAND. WHEN BIRD FLEW TO GROUND, WING LININGS WERE SEEN TO BE WHITE, WITH DARK, TRAILING EDGES TO WINGS PRIMARIES AND (JPK)  
WERE DARK  
BIRD COULD BE PICKED OUT AT A DISTANCE WHEN PERCHED DUE TO FACT THAT WINGS EXTEND BEYOND TAIL.
16. Voice: NOT HEARD
17. Similar species (and how are they eliminated by your description?):  
NO OTHER BUTED IN THIS AREA WOULD HAVE THIS PATTERN
18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):  
BIRD TOO FAR AWAY
19. Previous experience with this species:  
FAIRLY EXTENSIVE IN TEXAS, A FEW OBSERVATIONS IN LA
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 after the observation (date: \_\_\_\_\_);  memory.
22. Are you positive of your identification (if not, then explain)?  
YES
23. Signature of reporter: Joseph P. Kleiman 12/25/00  
(date)

ON 6 JANUARY 2001, DAVE ROARK, KEITH ANDERSON AND I SAW THIS SAME BIRD, SOARING NEAR THE LANDFILL, AT NOON FOR A FEW MINUTES

Joseph Kleiman 3/26/01

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White-tailed Hawk

December 10, 2000

Jefferson Davis Park

Philly W. area