

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: **White-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*)**
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One subadult in first-basic plumage, moderately-marked type
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: **Calcasieu**
Specific Locality: **nr. jct. of Sidney Derouen Rd. x Harris Rd., ca. 2.5 mi. NW of Bell City**
4. Date(s) when observed: **23 February 2012**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **2:20 – 2:30 PM CST**
6. Reporting observer and address: **Justin Bosler**
2074 Jarvis Rd.
Lancaster, PA 17601
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **Devin Bosler**
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): **Paul Conover, David Ringer**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **Bright overcast with adequate light for noting critical field marks. No glare or backlighting issues.**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Nikon EDG 8x42 binocular (excellent) and Kowa TSN-4 77mm spotting scope w/ 20-60x zoom eyepiece (good)**
11. Distance to bird(s): **close to 150 meters (as calculated w/ Google Earth)**

12. Duration of observation: **approximately 10 minutes**

13. Habitat: **Open pastures and fallow ag. fields with woody and brushy edges.**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): **The hawk was perched near the top of a mature chinese tallow for the duration of the observation.**

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 largish, dark *Buteo* with blackish head and throat; distinctive white patches on sides of head; white patch on upper breast; blackish flanks and belly with white and rufous mottling; white lower belly with some dark barring; rufous-brown upperwing coverts; and long, pointed wing tips falling well beyond tail tip. Uppertail coverts were whitish while the rump was dark gray to blackish. Tail was grayish with fine dark barring and wider, dusky subterminal tail band. Underwing pattern, wing shape, and flight style not assessed on perched raptor. Bluish-green cere and silvery-gray bill with black tip. Dark irides. Longish, yellow legs.**

16. Voice: N/A

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **All color morphs of Red-tailed Hawk easily eliminated by blackish head with distinct, isolated white markings, blackish throat, unmarked white upper breast, blackish flanks and belly with white and rufous mottling, pointed wingtips extending well beyond tail tip, bluish-green cere, long yellow tarsi, and dark irides (specifically eliminating imm./subad. RTHA). Swainson's Hawk eliminated by a lot of the same features minus the long wingtip projection.**

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **Photographs obtained by Justin Bosler and attached.**

19. Previous experience with this species: **Some experience with most ages and plumages on the coastal prairie of TX and once before in sw. LA.**

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

a. at time of observation: **none**

b. after observation: **Raptors of Western North America (Wheeler 2003)**

21. This description is written from: _____ notes made during the observation
(_____ notes attached?); **X** notes made after the observation (date: **23 Feb 2012**);
X memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: **Yes, 100% positive.**

23. Signature of reporter: **Justin Bosler** Date: **6 March 2012** Time: **2:00 PM EST**

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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photo by Justin Bosler

