

COPY

Louisiana Ornithological Society

Bird Records Committee

Report Form

Species: Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

Number: 1

Locality: One mile east of junction of Hwys. 380 and 382, near Byler Road, between Lake Arthur and Thornwell, Jefferson Davis Parish.

Date: November 17, 2001; November 23, 2001

Time: about 5:00 p.m.; about 1:00 p.m.

Reporter: David P. Muth,
1617 Charlton Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana 70122

With Reporter: Paul Conover; Mac Myers, (Charles Muth)

Other Observers: Found by Dan Lane 11/09/01; others have since reported the bird

Light: on 11/17 marginal, near sunset, but adequate; on 11/23 light was good

Optics: Swarovski EL 10x40, and Kowa scope

Distance: from 100 feet to 1,000 feet

Duration: 3-4 minutes each day

Habitat: dry rice fields; farm house, pasture, fallow fields.

Behavior: mostly perched or flying between perches, on telephone pole, on ground, and on low levees in rice fields

Description:

A red-tailed type raptor. I did not see it from below in flight, so got no real impression of overall size or shape or wing dimensions. Big-headed and large-billed.

Bill gray with prominent yellowish cere. Legs feathered to the toes, which were yellow.

Upperparts dark gray brown, lacking splotchy white patches of red-tailed. White in upper wings confined to the bases of the primaries, no white near tips nor in the primary coverts. Therefore upperwing flash was much more restricted than in any red-tailed, and much more prominent, since remainder of the upperwing was uniformly dark.

Underparts uniform white, with no belly band. Only dark area was formed by dark streaks on the thighs and adjacent flanks, forming a faint flank patch seen in flight. No collar, or cheek patch, no hint of a hood. No dark in axillars or anywhere on leading edge of wing.

Base of tail white, outer tail faintly barred.

Head dark with faint supercilium, dark capped, giving a "fierce" expression, unlike pale head of Krider's red-tailed.

Voice: not heard

Similar Species:

Krider's Red-tailed has large rectangular upper wing flash, formed by white in primaries and primary coverts; has faint belly band and dark patch on leading edge of wing, white cap, white in mantle and scapulars, faint neck collar, un-feathered tarsi.

Light phase Rough-legged has prominent dark belly and wrists patches.

Photos/Videos/Recordings: Poor ones attached; others obtained video and photos

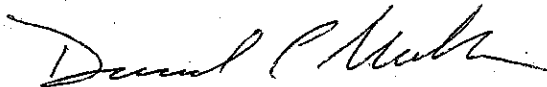
Previous Experience: Seen on several occasions in western U.S.

Aids: None at the time.

Circumstances of Description: written from notes made that evening and memory

Confidence Level: I am certain of the identification.

Signature:



David P. Muth

Date: December 17, 2001.

Louisiana Ornithological Society's

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: Ferruginous Hawk
(*Buteo regalis*)
2. Number of Individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): One first winter bird
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: Vermilion
(parish)
near corner of LA 380 and 382 (E of Throunwell)
(specific locality)
4. Date(s) when observed: 9 November 2001
5. Time(s) of day when observed: ~12:30-3:00 pm
6. Reporting observer and address: Daniel Lane
LSU Museum of Natural Science
119 Foster Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
George Nixon (Rockaway, NJ)
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Clear sky, good sunlight. Viewed from various angles to sun (see photos)
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
Zeiss 10x40, Bausch+Lomb Elite telescope (15-40x)
11. Distance to bird(s):
As close as 200 feet (passing overhead)
12. Duration of observation:
off and on for about 3 hours
13. Habitat:
Rice fields.

14. **Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation** (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):
 Always observed in flight. Seemed to be following rice combine and dropping into freshly-cut field after rodents. In company of about 15-20 other Buteos (Red-taileds and a Swainson's)
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):
 A large Buteo with particularly pale plumage. Large white patches at the bases of the primaries visible from above, as well at base of tail.
 Shape is long, tapered wings, long tail.
 Age judged by lack of dark leggings, presence of white wing panels, and dark-smudged tail.
16. **Voice:** None given
17. **Similar species** (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
 Shape rules out other Buteos, as did overall paleness of plumage (c.f. Rough-legged), and wing and tail pattern
18. **Photographs or tape recordings obtained?** (by whom? attached?):
 By DFL, attached.
19. **Previous experience with this species:**
 Have seen two of the ~~other~~ other LA records, as well as several in the western US.
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 attached?); ___ notes made after the observation (date: ___);
 memory.
22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes.
23. **Signature of reporter:** Daniel Lee 13 Nov 2001 3:00pm
 (date) (time)