

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Ferruginous Hawk, *Buteo regalis*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 2, male & female, adult, light color phase
3. Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: 5 miles SW of Holmwood, La
4. Date(s) when observed: October/November 2014
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 12pm till approximately 4pm
6. Reporting observer and address: Bob Stander, 409 industrial Pkwy, Lafayette, La. 70508
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Hunting partner. He is convinced the female bird he witnessed was an unusually colored immature Bald Eagle.
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 and sunny.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): none
11. Distance to bird(s): 80 meters at first sight.
12. Duration of observation: 3 to 4 hours.
13. Habitat: SW Louisiana agricultural fields with broken tree lines.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

At first sight female was flying very low (<20') flapping and quartering away to the SW as if she had just taken off from the nearby tree line. She appeared extremely large, even for her species. She turned to the NW and gained altitude until she disappeared over the same tree line. I again noticed her along with a male of the same species and coloration

directly overhead at about 800' where they soared up to several thousand feet over a period of about an hour. They were both very vocal as they soared. Screaming repeatedly. They disappeared diving to the NW returning to their overhead soaring position after about an hour where they stayed again for some time. Again very vocal as they soared.

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, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*):

Light phase birds but, with a nearly white tail, characteristic light underside of wings and a mostly buff abdomen and chest. Top of the head and nape had some buff color also. Upper side of the wings were mottled brown. The female appeared very large. Enough so, that one of my hunting partners is convinced we saw an immature Bald Eagle. Having been a practicing falconer for over 12 years flying mostly Red Tailed Hawks and then witnessing both the male and female together soaring I know they were not eagles.

16. Voice: Scream, not unlike a Red Tail. Very vocal while soaring.

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

I too thought I may have been witnessing an eagle at first sight. Getting a pretty good look at the top side of the female the thing that stuck out was the tail color being nearly white with no apparent barring at all. Not seeing a completely white head to go with the tail and light brown upper with light underside did not make sense for either a mature Bald Eagle or an immature Bald Eagle. Also, a light phase Red Tail would have had at least a dark single bar on the upper side of its tail near the end.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): None

19. Previous experience with this species: Sighted numerous times in Edwards Plateau area of Texas as well as New Mexico and Arizona.

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

a. at time of observation: No

b. after observation: Yes

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>

*	memory
	study of images

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

23. Date: Oct/Nov 2014

Time: Noon till 4pm

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_____