

## LBRC 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):  
One bird, white breast, rusty feathers on legs, gray and brown back feathers, head gray/brown with white feathers mixed in.
3. Parish:  
Lafourche
4. Specific Locality:  
Hwy 3185 across from Miller's Rowe Subdivision
5. Date(s) when observed: 02-06-2025
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 02:12 p.m.
7. Reporting observer: Darlene Eschete
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):  
Stephanie Conner - does not use Ebird.
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):  
James Beck, Josh Sylvest, Kathy Rhodes
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):  
Sunny to partly cloudy, photos were mixed with some sun behind me and some directly into sun. Last photos, clouds were coming in.
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon Prostaff 3S, 10x42, great condition; Nikon Coolpix P1000 digital camera 24-3000mm, 125x optical zoom.
12. Distance to bird(s): Approximately 200', then 300' up to 600'.
13. Duration of observation: 20 minutes
14. Habitat: Rural/Urban around busy highway lined by open fields with houses behind a fenced line.

15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Perched on electrical pole; looking around at ground and sky; flew to open field, did not catch anything that I am aware of; flew over my vehicle to another pole approximately 500' away.

16. 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):

Large bulky raptor, head was dark with streaks of white mixed in, dark thick eye stripe, long yellow gape extending under the eye with a dark hooked beak. The tail was long and white with white under-tail coverts. Tail in flight had brown feathers also. Belly was mostly white but had some rusty/brown streaking which was more spotted but in a line along the flanks. Rusty colored feathers covered the legs all the way down to the yellow feet. On the side of his neck area down to the shoulder there was dark streaking. When flying, I observed gray feathers on the back and brown at the rump. On my photos for the wings, I can see brown feathers on the Lesser Coverts blending to gray on the Median Coverts with gray into the secondaries, and white feathers on the primaries and black wing tips! The wings also had white on the extreme edge of the secondaries and primaries! Wowza! Similar in size and shape to that of a RTHA except the tail of the FEHA was longer and not red. Also, the wings of the FEHA extended much further down past the tail than a RTHA's which stood out to me and could be seen in photographs how long they are. A beautiful bird!

17. Voice: Bird was not vocal.

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

Red-tail hawk - No belly band on FEHA, No feathers to feet on RTHA; yellow gape on FEHA extends under eye, white tail on FEHA.

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

Attached photographs were taken by Darlene Eschete.

20. Previous experience with this species: None

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

Ibird Pro app; Ebird website; ID'd by other birders prior to me finding and seeing the bird.

22. Identification aids used when?

At time of sighting

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

Yes

24. Date report completed:

02-06-2025

25. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

Yes

26. If yes, may we include your name with the report?

Yes

















