

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 adult
3. Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: ~29.98151, -93.07678; Cameron Prairie NWR, E of Hwy 27
4. Date(s) when observed: Dec 18, 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: Not certain; late morning
6. Reporting observer and address: Phillip L. Vasseur, Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge 5476 Grand Chenier Hwy, Grand Chenier, LA 70643
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Billy Leonard (FWS)
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): None that I know of; however, Van Remsen confirmed ID through photographs he obtained via an eBird report I submitted.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Mostly cloudy skies but no significant shading that would have created poor visual
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): spotting scope
11. Distance to bird(s): 150-200 yards
12. Duration of observation: 5-10 min
13. Habitat: Treeline surrounded by early successional/marsh habitat
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Hawk was perched/resting in a large willow tree for the duration of the observation. Billy Leonard and I were conducting a CBC on the non-public use areas of Cameron Prairie NWR.
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*): I could clearly see its yellow legs contrasted against the rufous color on its thighs. It was a dark-bodied bird with distinct rufous coloration on its shoulders and linings of its wings.

16. Voice: Did not call

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Dark morph of Swainson's Hawk can look similar. However, time of year and obvious rufous shoulder markings and thighs on observed Harris's Hawk eliminated that possibility.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Several photographs were taken using Billy Leonard's camera. A few photographs show diagnostic characteristics; see attached.

19. Previous experience with this species: I have seen this species before during a birding trip to south Texas

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

a. at time of observation: NA

b. after observation: Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America

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"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 12/28/2017

Time: 10:56

24. 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 _____

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

