

LBRC 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 or near adult
3. Parish:
Cameron
4. Specific Locality:
Grand Chenier
5. Date(s) when observed: 12/1/24
6. Time(s) of day when observed: mid morning
7. Reporting observer: Esme Rosen
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
Mike Musemeche, Cheryl Huner, and a week prior - Paul Conover. The bird was also photographed and posted on Facebook a month prior around Yellow Rails and Rice, and posted to eBird again about a week after that, so it appears to be hanging out in this area, but is only visible from the road occasionally.
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): overcast, rather dark, but adequate light
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon Binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): 100-200 meters
13. Duration of observation: 2-3 minutes
14. Habitat: damaged chenier habitat built over by road and houses, farm fields to north, and coastal marsh to south
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Seen sitting a power pole for several minutes. Eventually flushed by another car and was never relocated

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):

Medium sized hawk, smaller than a Red-tailed, closer in size to an Osprey. Head, body, and wings uniformly black, except for a distinctive rufous patch on the wings - no other patterning on wings at all. There may have been some rufous on the lower body, but it was not obvious from the angle I saw the bird. The vent and rump were bright white, contrasting with the overall dark coloration. There was an incomplete blackish band on the tail, with some white checkering. The tip of the tail was again pure white. The legs were bright yellow, as was the base of the bill. There was also a small yellowish eye ring. Did not see any leg bands, and the flight feathers were normal. The outermost primary was very short, which I initially thought was odd, but checking further revealed this shape is typical for the species.

17. Voice: did not vocalize

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

I hesitate to say no similar species, but really, there aren't - combination of dark coloration, rufous on wings, and black and white tail pattern is distinctive

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

Photos attached

20. Previous experience with this species: I have seen the species a dozen times in Texas before

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

none

22. Identification aids used when?

None used

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

yes

24. Date report completed:

11/3/24

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



