

**LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION**

Oscar Johnson  
Louisiana State University  
119 Foster Hall  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
ojohns7@lsu.edu

**Species:** White-tailed Hawk, *Geranoaetus albicaudatus*

**Location:** Exxon Fields, Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

**Date:** 11 November 2017

**Age and sex:** Adult, sex unknown

**Molt status:** Outer primaries, and a few secondaries in sheath. One of my photos shows the right R6 in sheath.

**Number of individuals:** One

**Other observers:** Anna Hiller, Joanna Griffiths, Subir Shakya, Lauren Solomon, Andre Moncrieff, Vitek Jirinec, and Christina Varian.

**Original observer:** Not sure

**Circumstances:** A few of us spent the morning looking for this continuing rarity, with no luck. Vitek texted us later in the morning that he had found the bird, and we drove back to the area soon after to meet up with him. The bird had left by the time we got there, but about fifteen minutes later it came flying by slowly from the southwest, flew almost directly overhead, and continued on to the northeast. The bird was in good light in totally clear skies, offering everyone present a good view and decent photos. Our eBird checklist: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S40442464>

**Description:** A very distinctive hawk. This bird was entirely pure white below, with a white tail that had a distinct black terminal band. The sides and top of the head were medium gray. The legs were yellow. The remiges were dark gray with faint barring, darker blackish towards the tips. The underwing coverts were pure white. The photos that I took show that there is some faint barring on the axiliaries.

**Discussion:** A very distinctive bird. Not easily confused with other hawks found in North America.



