

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

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1. English and Scientific names: White-tailed Hawk, *Geranoaetus albicaudatus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
Two adults
3. Parish: Calcasieu
Specific Locality: T of Fruge and Lionel Derouen roads, near Holmwood
4. Date(s) when observed: 12 Nov 2023
5. Time(s) of day when observed:

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul Conover
City: Lafayette
State: LA

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):

At least one bird has been reported lately, and this has become a known spot for the species.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Overcast, bad for photos but OK for viewing through binos and scope.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Vortex 12s, Nikon 20-60 scope, Nikon d3500 with 300 mm lens

11. Distance to bird(s): A couple of hundred yards

12. Duration of observation: about 30 minutes

13. Habitat: Open rangeland with scattered small trees (mostly tallow) along fence lines.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

Saw one bird at the T, lost it, went back south on Fruge, saw a bird kiting there, and then saw another join it. Watched through scope, one flew N to and lost the other. Birds went from low to high very quickly and kited for a long time. They dropped a couple of times, but went back up.

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*):

White-tailed hawks with solidly white bellies, white tails with dark subterminal band.

Gray mantle and hood, white throat, reddish tint to shoulders. Underwing with white wing linings, darker-shaded flight feathers as in Swainson's Hawk. Wings broadest in middle, narrowing at tips, also reminiscent of Swainson's Hawk.

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

No other expected species anything like WTHA.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, attached

19. Previous experience with this species: Pretty extensive.

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

23. Date: 13 Nov 2023

Time:





