

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

s

1. English and Scientific names: White-tailed Hawk, *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* 2.

Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

One juvenile/immature

3. Parish: Cameron

Specific Locality: Johnsons Bayou area

4. Date(s) when observed: 22 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):

Dave Patton

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Light was sufficient but between distance and light photos were tough to get.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Vortex 12s, Nikon 20-60 scope

11. Distance to bird(s): Several hundred yards

12. Duration of observation: about 10 minutes

13. Habitat: Coastal pastureland and marsh along highway side.

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

There were many hawks aloft, including a dark Harlan's. Most seemed to be migrating somewhat leisurely down the coast, whereas this bird soared and hunted, getting very high up and stooping then disappearing.

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*):

Dark-bellied hawk with pointed wingtips but broader inner wings, large white blaze on chest, pale undertail and pale plain tail with a hint of a dusky tip, relatively plain primaries and secondaries below with dark edge, darker underwing linings but no patagial mark.

Note: Wings and tail appeared to have small gaps due to molt, which a similarly-plumaged bird I had at Peveto in October did not have, so I believe this is not the same individual.

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

Morphology similar to SWHA but plumage not correct for that species, differs in morphology from other dark hawks, of which only possibly Harlan's would show such a pattern.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Dave got decent photos.

19. Previous experience with this species: Pretty extensive.

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

23. Date: 3 March 2023
Time:

