

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: White-tailed Hawk (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1, adult, sex unknown
3. Parish: Calcasieu
Specific Locality: Fruge Rd. between LA-14 and Lionel Derouen Rd. (30.101736, -93.038554)
4. Date(s) when observed: 7 October 2023
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 2:40 pm
6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Erik I. Johnson
City: Sunset
State: Louisiana
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Ceci Johnson
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): none
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Overcast – bird was overhead and somewhat silhouetted
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x42 Vortex Razor binoculars, Nikon D7200 with Sigma 150-600mm f/4.5-6.3 lens, both in good condition
11. Distance to bird(s): About 70 feet high when first noticed, and climbing rapidly

12. Duration of observation: 5 minutes

13. Habitat: Open country – pasture/prairie with a few scattered trees between more solidly wooded treelines.

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

Flying – primarily soaring, circling, and climbing, not flapping

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 was driving slowly and noticed the bird overhead looking out the driver door window. The shape immediately struck me as White-tailed Hawk – broad, pointy wings with a relatively short but broad tail. Stopped and got binoculars on the bird quickly and could see the bright white tail with a single broad subterminal bar, white underparts, and “hooded” look to the head – gray face with white throat. I then started snapping photos, and in reviewing, I could see the reddish lesser coverts. Appeared to be molting p7 and at least one tail feather.

16. Voice: Not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Red-tailed Hawk (especially Krider’s or pale Harlan’s) is the first bird to eliminate, but distinct wide black bar in the tail is unlike those. In addition, the wing shape is off, in that WTHA has really short p10 and p9s compared to Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Broad-winged Hawks. Short-tailed Hawk has similar head plumage and shape, but more finely and multi-barred tail, among other plumage differences (e.g., lack of reddish lesser coverts).

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen here and there in eastern Texas, including most recently in December 2022, going back to 2005.

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: none

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: 14 October 2023

Time: 9:05 pm.

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? Yes





