

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

3. Parish: *Calcasieu*

Specific Locality: *USA: LOUISIANA: Calcasieu Parish: Bell City; Wesley Fruge Road, ca. 0.5 mi. from Pine Pasture Road*

4. Date(s) when observed: *19 December 2023*

5. Time(s) of day when observed: *11:20AM*

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: <i>Michael A. Seymour</i>
City: <i>Baton Rouge</i>
State: <i>Louisiana</i>

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):

Adley Bunch and Shelby Richard

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): *N/A*

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): *Fair sky. Mostly backlit.*

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): *Nikon Monarch 10x42 (good condition)
Nikon P1000 (good condition)*

11. Distance to bird(s): *1000+ feet*

12. Duration of observation: *~5 minutes overall*

13. Habitat: pasture/dry rice fields

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

Bird was observed soaring.

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*):

Large *Buteo*-shaped hawk with bright white tail with dark subterminal band. Back and upper wings were dark gray. Upper wings with brown “shoulders.” Brilliant white underneath.

16. Voice: No calls heard.

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

No other species found in Louisiana has the white tail with dark subterminal, gray back, and brown shoulders. The only other **likely** hawk would’ve been a Krider’s Red-tailed Hawk, but that species lacks the obvious tail band and is brown above rather than gray. Swainson’s Hawk is shaped differently and mostly brown above.

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

Yes, photos by Michael A. Seymour (attached).

19. Previous experience with this species:

I’ve observed this species a handful of times in Texas and Louisiana.

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:

notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?

This record is from the Sweet Lake – Cameron Prairie NWR CBC on 19 Dec 2023

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="text"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

I am positive.

23. Date: 22 December 2023

Time: 10:30AM

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



This record is from the Sweet Lake – Cameron Prairie NWR CBC on 19 Dec 2023

