

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):
One (two?) subadult
3. Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: 1 Jan 2024: Chalkley Road
27 Jan 2024: Fruge Road near intersection with Lionel DeRouen,
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):
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 D3500 w/200 mm lens
11. Distance to bird(s): Fairly close (40 yards?) on 1 Jan; within 20 yards on 27 Jan.
12. Duration of observation: about 10 minutes on 1 Jan; about 2 minutes on 27 Jan
13. Habitat: Rangeland
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):
In drifting flight on 1 Jan, including circling over me. Perched on fenceline scrub on 27 Jan.
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*):

Subadult, superficially adult-like, but with fine, close vermiculated barring on underwings and underparts of body. Otherwise with bold white tail with dark subterminal tail band, dark upperparts, bay patches on shoulders.

The throat also had a dark patch which I tried to compare the extent of on 1 Jan and 27 Jan photos, but I can't tell if this is one or two birds. Others might see something I've missed.

This is definitely not one of the two birds I reported earlier in the fall (both of which had white underparts).

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

Nothing similar.

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

Yes, from both dates.

19. Previous experience with this species: This species has become regular here, and I've probably found about 15 here, and seen several others, of all ages.

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

23. Date: 3 March 2023
Time:

1 Jan:





27 Jan:













