

LBRC Report Form

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, light morph
3. Parish:
Calceaceau
4. Specific Locality:
2221 E Ward Line Rd, Lake Charles US-LA 30.21310, -93.12882
5. Date(s) when observed: 2.19.2024
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 3:46pm
7. Reporting observer: Kathy Rhodes
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
None
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
None
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
Bright light from sun lowering in the sky shining directly on the bird
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): None
12. Distance to bird(s): Somewhat low in sky
13. Duration of observation: a few seconds
14. Habitat: Highway with buildings and neighborhoods
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird was flying in a circle and banked directly in my view to the right

16. 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):

While almost to my hotel on Hwy 397 just before I-10, I saw a white hawk with its tail completely fanned open. It was very white and the light was bright on it. I saw the dark/black band near the edge of the tail. I knew immediately this was the White-tailed Hawk. The open wings were mostly white also. I attached a terrible drawing I did immediately when I got to my hotel room just a few minutes later.

17. Voice: None

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

White-tailed Kite but nowhere similar enough to me.

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

Could not obtain since I was driving and alone in the car. Heavy traffic.

20. Previous experience with this species: I saw in Grand Isle a few years back, at High Island in Texas and in Calcasieu in Oct 2022

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

Merlin

22. Identification aids used when?

After observation

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

Yes

24. Date report completed:

3.1.2024

25. 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

26. If yes, may we include your name with the report?

Yes

