

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

received 18
17 Nov 88
incl. 2 color
prints

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographys, etc.; include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to the Secretary of the LOS Bird Records Committee.

1. Common and scientific name: Buteo regalis. Ferruginous Hawk
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 adult light phase
3. Locality: Louisiana: Cameron Parish Parish: 2.5 mi. East of where LA-82 turns "inland" going from Holly Beach to Johnson Bayou
4. Date(s) when seen: 22 Oct 1988
5. Times of day when seen: 11:55 AM - 12:30 PM
6. Reporting observer and address: Al + Gwen Smalley, 88 Egret Street, New Orleans, LA 70124. First seen by Mac Myers + Gwen. Al was driving, and the
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird: bird was so close to the hiway he could not see it until he got out of the car.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: We all recognized the bird immediately.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Good sunlight - excellent view. At noon, the sun was slightly behind us, as we faced north, observing the bird to the north of the hiway.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x40 Zeiss (all 3 observers).
11. Distance to bird: 80-100 yds, later soaring at greater distances.
12. Duration of observation: about 25 minutes.
13. Habitat (general and specific): open pasture near Gulf beach.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): Flying only. Bird hovered + soared.
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):
Large pale Buteo. No dark patagium. When soaring toward us, the sunlight actually shone from the light foreedge of the wing. Black tips to ventral primary coverts forming the "comma" of field guides. Base of tail white, distal half of tail pale brownish-red. dorsally, wing had squarish white patches at base of primaries. No belly band. Light brown legs. Uniformly brown back.

Soared with slight dihedral and tips of wings turned up. Ventrally, tips of primaries blackish. Wings long and tapered

in distal half. There were also a few scattered dark (brownish) markings on coverts ~~medial~~ ^{proximal} from "commas".

Written from notes. After consulting field guides, we add that wings were unbarred, having forgotten to note this in field. The bird also did not spread its tail as much as jamaicensis, which we noticed during observation period but did not enter into notebook.

We considered this an exceptionally good observation, from the standpoint of distance, light, and aspect of bird, which hovered at length.

16. Voice: None

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

Closest species is Krider's Red-tailed Hawk. Separated by absence of patagial mark, different wing shape, unbarred wings + tail, uniform brown back, and squarish dorsal patches on primary base.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?): Yes, by Gwen Attached.

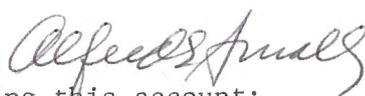
19. Previous experience with this species: We all had seen species a few times in the past. Extensive experience with all phases of Red-tailed Hawk.

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification
a) at time of observation; none

b) after observation: Geo Guide; Clark + Wheeler

21. This description written from: X notes made during observation; _____ notes made after observation; _____ memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter: 

24. Date and time of writing this account:

Oct. 25, 1988. 6 PM



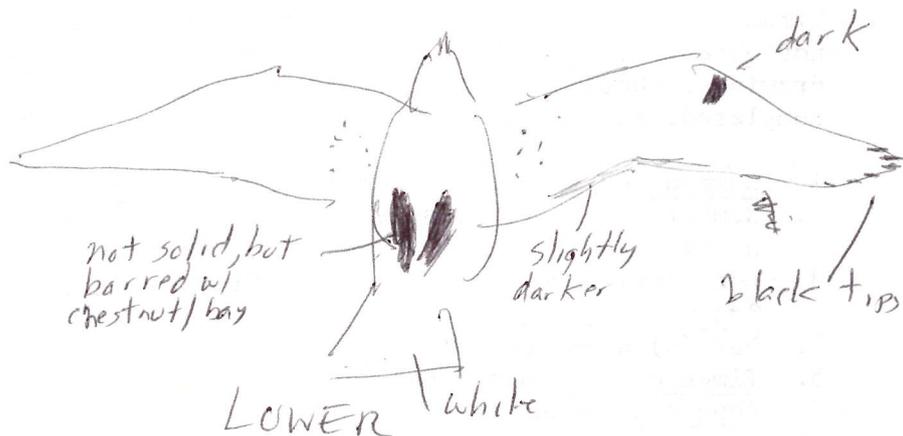
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1. Common and scientific name: Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 adult
3. Locality: Louisiana: Cameron Parish: about 2.5 miles east of where the coast highway leaves the beach, west of Holly Beach
4. Date(s) when seen: 22 October 1988
5. Times of day when seen: about noon
6. Reporting observer and address: Buford Mac. Myers III
730 Frenchmen St. New Orleans, LA 70116
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
Al + Gwen Smalley; there were some others whose names I don't know - beginners.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Very good
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
10x40 Zeiss - excellent; 22x60 Bushnell - good.
11. Distance to bird: various - at times as close as about 75 yds.
12. Duration of observation: 30 minutes?
13. Habitat (general and specific):
Coastal prairie north of the highway.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): Always in flight - hovering into a quartering head wind, soaring, swooping.
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):
A large, robust, long-winged Buteo, rather large-headed looking.
Underparts: generally white; tail white; leg feathers barred with chestnut/bay; tips of outer primaries black; trailing edge of secondaries seemed slightly darker than remaining underwings; there was a dark carpal comma; there was a very slight amount of darker flecking on the wing coverts, no dark patagium.
Upper parts: tail coverts and maybe basal area of tail white; remainder of tail pale pinkish - no bands or bars; back and extensive area of wing coverts rich rusty color; primaries and secondaries and some of wing coverts steel gray; the outer primaries had a striking white patch - exact shape hard to describe - see sketch; the white patches were confined to the primaries, did not extend onto the coverts; the white patches were not solid, but appeared to be confined to one

web of the feathers, with the other smaller web being dark. ~~Upper~~ Crown and nape not clearly noted - but not rusty nor white, moderately dark/streaky. Lower face, chin white. I could never ascertain with certainty that the leg feathers extended to the toes, but twice the bird dropped its legs down, and they looked very shaggy.



16. Voice:

N/A

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

Direct comparison with a Krider's Red Tail, which is the most likely candidate for confusion. I think that the combination of characters eliminates all species - especially the combination of underwing pattern, ~~rusty~~ rusty back + wing coverts, unbarred tail and steel gray upper surface of flight feathers with the distinctive white patches; also the leg feathering.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):

slides by me attached; also photographed by Gwen Smalley

19. Previous experience with this species:

a few out west; one a long time ago in LA.

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification

a) at time of observation; Geographic Guide

b) after observation: Clark, ~~Clark~~ Dunne

21. This description written from: X notes made during observation; _____ notes made after observation; _____ memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter:

Buford M. Myers III

24. Date and time of writing this account:

27 April 1989 7:50 pm



Buteo regalis

22 Oct 1988

Cameron Parish

Photo by Gwen Smalley



22 Oct. 1988

Cameron Parish

Photo by Gwen Smalley

Buteo regalis