

REPORT FORM

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, photographs, 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: Rough-legged Hawk (Buteo lagopus)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 immature
3. Locality: Louisiana: St. Tammany Parish: Bridge on La. 434, 1.3 km. SW LaCombe, on road to Goose Point. This is a regular hawk-watching station
4. Date(s) when seen: 22 November 1988
5. Times of day when seen: 1150 AM
6. Reporting observer and address: Al Smalley, 88 Egret St., New Orleans, LA 70124
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
Gwen Smalley, Cecil Kersting
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): Bird was flying E to W, north of us, so sun was at our back. Cloudless sky - ideal viewing conditions
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x40 binocs, 22x scope
11. Distance to bird: 60-100 yds.
12. Duration of observation: about 2 minutes
13. Habitat (general and specific):
Bird was migrating along edge of pine forest and marshlands on north shore of Lake Pontchartrain.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):
Soaring
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):

First seen in lateral view, when white rump was very conspicuous. Flying without wingbeats. Bird then wheeled and we saw black patches at tips of primary coverts. Tail with brown band distinct from white in rest of tail, and narrow but conspicuous terminal white band. These field marks noted several times as bird wheeled (wind was about 15 mph N). No barring in wing - no patagial mark. Remiges white with black tips to primaries.

Large, but not noticeably larger than nearby Red-tails. Wings proportionately somewhat longer + slimmer than Red-tails, did not spread tail quite as much as Red-tails (the tail didn't seem to almost touch the wing)

The dihedral shown in field guides wasn't very evident to us, but overall, the soaring bird did not look quite as flat as a Red-tail. Light breast, dark belly area. Gwen noted that dark area was not "solid" and showed medial light area.

16. Voice: none

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

Distinctive underwing patterns distinguish Red-tail + Rough-leg. Prior to this observation, we had seen 145 Red-tails (the days total was 230), all "typical" light-phase Eastern birds. I have never seen Knier's or Harlan's in some 16 visits to this site.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?): no

Field sketch by Gwen.

19. Previous experience with this species: Some experience by all observers.

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

a) at time of observation; none

b) after observation: Gen, Clark + Wheeler, Dunne + Sibley

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

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

23. Signature of reporter: *Alfred S. ...*

24. Date and time of writing this account:

Nov. 22, 1988 6 PM

22 Nov 88 11:50 Soave Point

First noticed in lateral

view - by bright white rump (light
from behind us). Red-tailed Area -

feathers almost none light in rump,
but thin web of compression &

bleated from ceil. The bird flew

around and with large black patches
at distal part of wing, bending;

black band in tail with
main terminal band. Then with

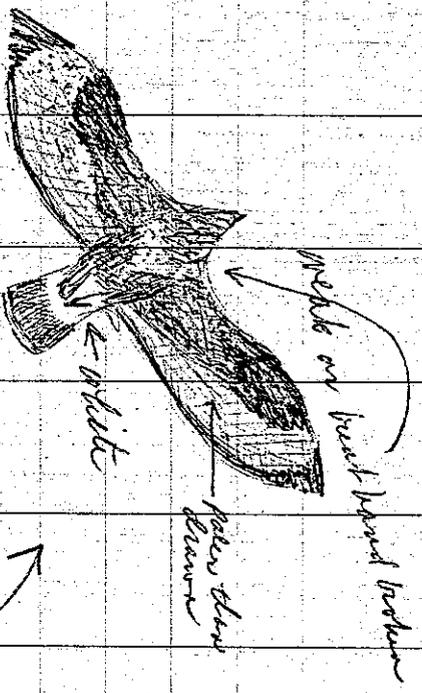
no dorsal trim in rear leg,
w/ beginning in wing; w/ lateral vent

feather, but when moving, wings
proportionately ~~long~~

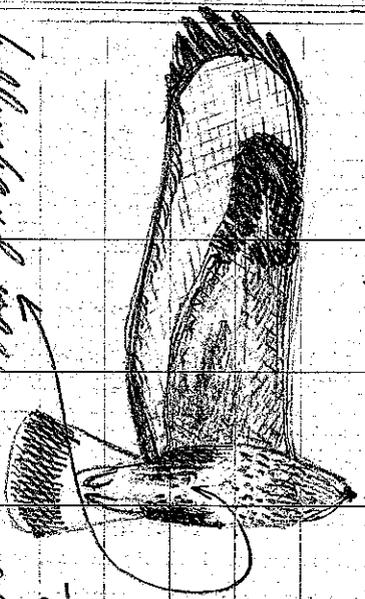
slightly heavier than Red-tail,
did not spread tail quite as much.

Black belly area, not spread in
Red-tail.

Excellent view.



The squirrel downing in field look down and
broken belly-band and the spotting
in the belly - and breast.



belly-band was
broken here.
Observed on sides thickly, breaking on center.

this sketch
added later

