

Louisiana Ornithological Society's

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 information involving an observation is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of fieldnotes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. **English and Scientific names:** Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage** (e.g. 2 ad.in breeding or alternate plumage): one immature
3. **Locality:** LOUISIANA: Acadia:
(parish)
Hwy. 92, 0.5-0.9 mi. W Hwy. 13 (5 mi. S Crowley)
(specific locality)
4. **Date(s) when observed:** 19 December 1989
5. **Time(s) of day when observed:** 5:28-5:38 PM
6. **Reporting observer and address:** Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff
Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70803
7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):** none
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):** none
9. **Light conditions** (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): dull, overcast, premature twilight
10. **Optical equipment** (type, power, condition): 10 X 42 Leica binocular
11. **Distance to bird(s):** glimpsed in flight, then perched closest views approx. 75 ft. away (2-3 min.), flushed bird and watched in flight again for another few minutes
12. **Duration of observation:** 10 minutes
13. **Habitat:** flooded rice stubble with hay bales , adjacent agricultural areas

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

bird ID'ed initially in flight by shape and pale patches in primaries (both observers very familiar with this species from CA—our first observation of this species in LA!), landed for a few minutes on a hay bale in a flooded rice field, seen again in flight as the bird selected a roost perch in a large, leafless tree

15. **Description** (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possibly: 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):

taken directly from field notes/sketches made during the observation (by DLD) and CBC field card written after the observation (by SWC): large *Buteo*, roughly size of Red-tailed Hawk but somewhat longer-bodied, longer and more pointed-winged, perhaps longer-tailed. Generally dark reddish-brown above with pale mottling and streaking. Wings reddish-brown, white along leading edge as seen when perched and facing observers. Indistinct dark eyeline (mask-like appearance) contrasting with whitish face and throat and paler crown. Underparts white with a few dark flecks on lower belly, thighs, tarsi. Tarsi completely feathered to toes - this character was well seen as the bird was facing us (ca 75 ft. away). Bill dark with yellow cere. Feet yellowish. In flight, basal half of all of but the outermost 1-2 pairs primaries mostly white, forming large white "flashes", contrasting with darker remainder of upperwing. Underwing almost completely white except for small blackish "wrist" band. Basal 2/3 to 3/4 tail grayish-white blending to a darker terminal band (reddish-brown). Unable to determine iris color. Fieldnotes/card attached.

16. **Voice:** bird did not call

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

Krider's Red-tailed Hawk is superficially similar but 1) lacks feathered tarsi, 2) pale primary flash is in different section of the wing (pale area in Krider's consists of the inner most primaries (like a Herring Gull) not by the bases of the primary feathers, and 3) lacks carpal spots or wrist markings of the underwing (instead Krider's has dark stripe along the leading edge). Only other NA raptor with feathered tarsi is Rough-legged Hawk that does not have a similar plumage.

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

none

19. **Previous experience with this species:**

We have seen hundreds in CA over the course (over 20 yrs. birding experience -each observer- with this species).

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: X notes made during the observation; X notes made (immediately) after the observation (date: later that night; _____ memory.

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

23. Signature of reporters: Donna L. Dittman 11/14/98
(date) (time)

Steve W. Cardy 11/14/98

Ferruginous Hawk Crowley, CB



52B - 535 pm

75-100 ft on ground

spotted flying along Hwy, landed on
mountain veg clump in ^{Hooded Sycamore} rice field → top of oak →
bare dead tree to roost

large Buteo - wings longer/narrower more \times than RT
underparts dingy white, faintly marked
w/ diffuse spotting, tarsi white feathered
to feet feet dull yellow
→ 219 Hwy 92-09

eye in darker/mask or "eye line"

white at base of wing

wing color not seen, cere yellow

head/neck reddish brown, streaked on white

reddish wing

feathered tarsi

yellow feet

prominent white flash from

light reddish brown of white base

back wing reddish brown