



*Tail* Long tail with white at the base, a broad black subterminal band, and a white terminal band.

*Bill* Big, bright yellow bill.

*Eye* Not noted.

*Legs* Long, bright yellow legs

**16. Voice:** None

**17. Similar species and how they were eliminated:** Adult is unmistakable.

**18. Photographs?** One blurred slide accompanies this report. I hope others have better photos.

**19. Previous experience with this species:** I've seen several times in Texas and once in Louisiana.

**20. Aids used in identification:**

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: Wheeler and Clark

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

**22. Are you positive of your identification?**   yes  

**23. Origin** Out-of-range Harris' Hawks are always suspect with respect to origin. There were no plumage features that indicated captivity. The bird was wary, flying when we got within 50 yards.

**24. Signature of reporter:**

*B. Hays A. W. Allen*

**25. Date and time of writing this account:** March 15, 2001  
8:30 p.m.

1/2/01  
Aud. Park/Zoo

- WWD0 20-25

1/4/01

① Sorrento Exit

MALL

2:07 - 2:25

~~SEA~~ HOME

And Lyle

- Harris's Hawk - ad; dark chocolate breast;  
reddish patches in wings  
Long tail; white at base; broad black  
band, then terminal white band.  
Big, <sup>brown</sup> yellow bill. Long, bright yellow legs.

Perched; flew. Twice.

COHR - Dr

Bms; Kowa scope-  
photo- 1

② Baton Rouge - University Lake.

TRSW.

CANV

LESC

AMCO

PBOR

DCCO

RUDH

③ Aug 35  
WFIB

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
REPORT FORM

1. Name: Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*
2. Number: one adult, sex unknown
3. Location: Louisiana; Ascension Parish; Hwy 61, about 0.5 to 0.8 mi. northwest of exit 187 of I-10; southeast of Sorrento
4. Date: 4 January 2001
5. Time: mid-afternoon
6. Reporting observer: B. Mac. Myers III 5660 Ada Pl.-rear apt. New Orleans, LA 70124
7. Accompanying observers: Phillip A. Wallace
8. Independent observers: the bird was first reported by Jay Huhner; others who saw it include Marty Guidry (with D.B. Crider and Karen Fay??)
9. Light conditions: excellent; the sun was behind us, the bird 60-70 yds. away perched fairly low in a tree
10. Optics: 10x40 Zeiss, 22x60 Bushnell, Kowa zoom. all good to excellent
11. Distance: originally 60-70 yards, later at about 150 yds.
12. Duration: several minutes
13. Habitat: the bird was in a narrow strip of fairly large deciduous trees alongside the highway; in the general area there were extensive swampy woods, but there were also extensive brushy/weedy areas in a powerline right of way and other cleared areas; there were several Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks nearby
14. Behavior: nothing noteworthy; initially it was perched near the road; then it flew farther away and perched again
15. Description: it was a large, long , long-legged, dark raptor. Its head breast and belly were blackish-brown (about the color of dark chocolate). The undertail coverts were white. The feathering of the legs was chestnut. The back and wings were the same dark chocolate except for extensive chestnut on the wing coverts. The uppertail coverts were white. The tail was dark chocolate with a broad white base and a white tip which was

substantial, but was considerably narrower than the white base or the dark middle of the tail. The underwings were dark chocolate with chestnut coverts. We looked closely for bands on the legs and did not see any. The tip of the tail was somewhat tattered or frayed, but not severely so. The bird was at least as wary as nearby Red-tails and Red-shoulders.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species: a truly distinctive species

18. Photographs: three prints by Myers are enclosed; Wallace might also have obtained photos

19. Previous experience; small numbers in TX

20. Aids: none that I recall at the time; later various guides

21. Description: made from notes taken in the field

22. Yes, I am positive of the identification. Questions will no doubt be raised about the bird's origin. There was nothing in the bird's appearance or behavior to suggest a captive origin. The amount of wear at the tip of the tail did not seem unusual for a long-tailed bird crashing through brush after rabbits. I contacted Jennifer Coulson to inquire if she or Tom were aware of any released or escaped birds, and she said they were not aware of any. She thought the bird was probably of wild origin, and thought that the fact that it was an adult made that more likely. (She didn't explain the reasoning about that.) [see attached email]

23. *B. Mac. Myers III*

24. 13 March 2001 16:46 CST

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**Buford Myers**

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**From:** <Jacoulson@aol.com>  
**To:** <bmyers990@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 09, 2001 6:52 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Harris's Hawk

Dear Mac,

We didn't get out to see the Harris's Hawk, so thanks for the details. I don't know of any escapees. If it isn't wearing a band, chances are it's either a wild Harris's or an intentional release (which is illegal in LA). The band that falconer's and captive breeders use is not the typical bird-bander's band, so it could be easily overlooked. There are three types of bands a captive bird could wear. One is a yellow plastic band that is about 3-4 mm wide, another is a black plastic band, also 3-4 mm wide, the third is an aluminum but yellowish-gold in color and also 3-4 mm wide. In my line of thinking, the fact that it is an adult bird really ups the chances that it is a wild bird.