

The following record was accepted at the LBRC Meeting on 8 November 2008.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

One immature (2008-16) on 26-27 April 2008, *Cameron*: Sweet Lake, vicinity of Chesson's Grocery, just north of Cameron Prairie NWR; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, see p. 11) and Steven W. Cardiff, B. Mac Myers III (ph only), Paul E. Conover (ph only), and Phillip A Wallace (ph only).

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 pertinent information is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, 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 in alternate plumage):
worn juvenile light morph
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: Cameron Par.;
Hwy. 27 just north Cameron Prairie NWR (at Chesson's Grocery near Sweet Lake)
4. Date(s) when observed: 26 April 2008
5. Time(s) of day when observed: first observed about 9:15 AM- and then had it in sight until Paul Conover & Mac Myers arrived and until it eventually flew W across the hwy. at about 10:15 AM
6. Reporting observers and address: Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Paul Conover & B. Mac Myers III
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): several birders present for the LOS weekend were alerted to its presence and got to see this bird; documented by Phillip A. Wallace and Curt Sorrells on 28 April (also rumored to be present through 29 April, but no documentation submitted).
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): good; bird was relatively tame and allowed us to maneuver and optimize viewing conditions.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Leica 10 X 42; Leica 10 X 50 (SWC) binoculars and Kowa TSN-4 telescope
11. Distance to bird(s): as close as 50-100 ft.

12. Duration of observation: about an hour

13. Habitat: tall utility poles along highway, fields with cattle and short grass

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): perched on telephone poles, including preening, spreading wings and tail, and also seen in flight 3-4 times

15. 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): DLD spotted the hawk on top of the telephone pole at the corner of the gas station parking lot – and knew it was “something interesting” because it was fairly white with few markings below and the face had a very unusual masked effect. It was an immature *Buteo* hawk and appeared more or less Red-tailed Hawk size sitting on top of the pole; it was brown above with some white mottling on the back and especially the wing coverts. The cap and nape were paler. DLD slowly approached taking photos and SWC joined her after finishing pumping gas a few minutes later. The bird then flushed, flew nearly right over the observers, and landed on a telephone pole south of the gas station, confirming by its wing pattern and shape that it was indeed a Ferruginous Hawk. While perched, the white feathered tarsi were not that obvious – but present. Below the feathered upper tarsi, lower legs and feet were yellow. It had a large dark bill, a yellow cere and some yellow extending along its very long gape (extending back to below the eye) – all characteristic of this species. In flight, wings were long and pointed, the underwing linings were white with limited spotting and conspicuous dark patagial patch. Primaries and secondaries were barred, inner primaries paler, this pale patch prominent on the upper wing. The tail was generally pale, ending in a darker band – the rump whitish contrasting with the brown lower back.

16. Voice: silent; not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): The combination of feathered tarsi, large bill and wide gape, and primary and tail patterns eliminates all other *Buteo* species.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, by DLD and also by Paul Conover/Mac Myers

19. Previous experience with this species: have seen many in California, one previous accepted

sight record for Louisiana

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

None necessary – nothing unusual about this bird.

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

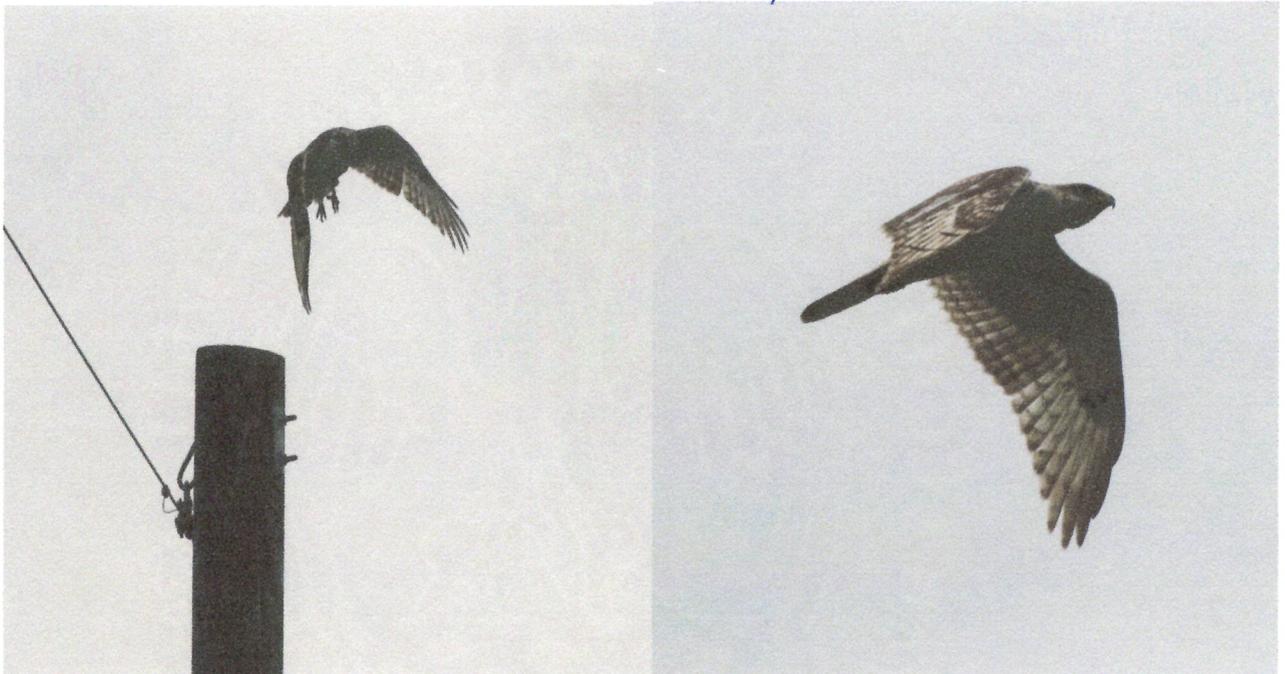
21. This description is written from: _____ notes made during the observation (_____ notes attached?); _____ notes made after the observation (date: _____); memory and photographs.

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

23. Signature of reporter: _____
Time: 5 PM

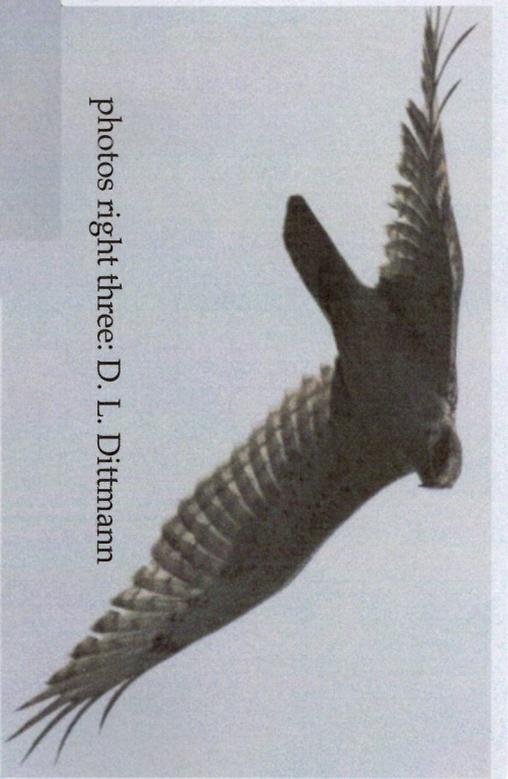
Danna L. Doherty
Stuart W. Cardiff

Date: 4 October 2008 (better late

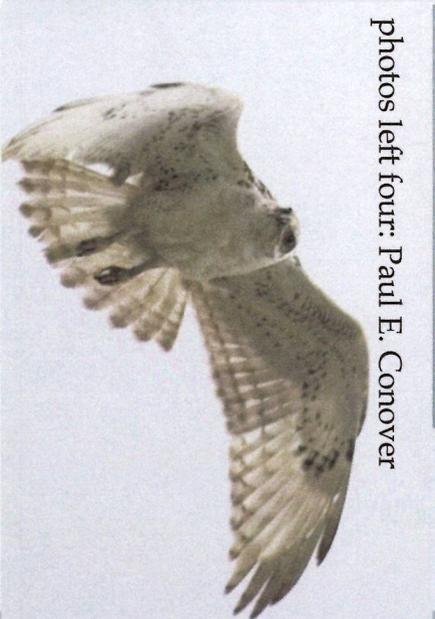


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photos right three: *D. L. Dittmann*



photos left four: *Paul E. Conover*

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photos by B. Mac Myers III