

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): one immature light morph
3. Locality: Parish: Cameron;
Specific Locality: Lacassine NWR Pool Unit entrance road
4. Date(s) when observed: 6 February 2012
5. Time(s) of day when observed: approximately between 3:13-3:20 PM
6. Reporting observer and address: Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff
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): OK, but kind of glary. Late day sun relatively low to SW, most of time looking directly up and at bird and a little towards sun.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 X 42 Leica binocular (DLD); 10 X 50 Leica binocular (SWC)
11. Distance to bird(s): when overhead the hawk may have been as close as 100 feet, but more distant when coming in and after it circled headed away as we watched it set its wings and disappear to the NNE.

12. Duration of observation: About 5 minutes.

13. Habitat: overhead, northern boundary Lacassine NWR Pool Unit, a mix of open marsh and agricultural/hedgerow habitats.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): DLD initially spotted the soaring hawk and told SWC to get out of the truck and "take a look at this raptor" while she jumped out and started taking photos. SWC said it looked like a Ferruginous Hawk, which is what DLD believed the hawk to be as she first sighted it coming in towards them. The hawk initially circled about 100 ft. over us, then drifted a ways farther south and gained altitude as we tried to stay under it in the vehicle (almost to the first road T inside the refuge), then it gained additional altitude, set its wings, and headed away, disappearing into the distance to the NNE.

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): Large pale *Buteo*. DLD's first impression was that by shape it was not a Red-tailed Hawk. It had a somewhat different flight profile with longer wings. Pattern of the underparts also different in that it lacked the dark patagial patch typical of Red-tailed and only had the wrist patch. It was largely white below. Other than the wrist patches, the underwing linings had a few dark spots, as did the chest and belly/thighs. Wings from beneath were banded with brown and did not have a darker border to the trailing edge. Tail looked frayed or wet (obvious in photos) mostly pale with some faint banding and a darker terminal band. This individual had a very full, bulging crop. Head largely whitish but with a darker masked appearance and the long "gape" extending back to below the eye was evident even with such distant views. Bird remained high directly overhead and then gained elevation, so we could not view upperparts. Eye appeared pale, bill dark, cere and long gape yellowish; leg color not seen nor were feathered tarsi, although the latter seems almost visible in the photos. See photos.

16. Voice: silent.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Nothing quite similar. Red-tailed Hawk shaped differently and light morphs have prominent dark patagial patches lacking on this individual.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, photos obtained by DLD

19. Previous experience with this species: very familiar with this species from long

history with it in West; have also found two additional records in LA.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
None necessary. ID was obvious.

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: _____);
___X___ memory, plus using photos and photo EXIF data.

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

23. Date: ___14 February 2011_____ Time: ___2:35 PM_____

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or
portions of this report on its website? _____YES_____

If yes, may we include your name with the report? ___Yes_____



