

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 or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net>.

1. English and Scientific names: White-tailed Hawk (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): one adult
3. Parish: Calcasieu
Specific: Fruge Road, <1 mi. north of "T" at Nunez X Lionel Derouen roads
4. Date(s) when observed: 27 October 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 3:00 PM
6. Reporting observer and address: Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff
435 Pecan Drive, St. Gabriel, LA 70776
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Kevin Colley
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): Seen by numerous observers before and after; originally reported by Paul E. Conover earlier in October.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): overcast/between rain showers; low light and generally poor visibility with gusting winds from storm outflow, but we had a good window of a few minutes when it stopped raining and we could jump out of the vehicles and get the bird in the telescope; overcast actually made light better as we would have been looking west into the glare.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 X 40 & 10 x 50 Leica binoculars; Kowa 25-60X zoom telescope.
11. Distance to bird(s): a long way away, maybe 500 yards, along a north-south fence line to west of Fruge.

12. Duration of observation: probably no more than five minutes to locate and then put the bird in the telescope.

13. Habitat: open field with fenceline with scattered brush and small trees

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification: perched in tree, facing into wind away from us, stretched wings and exposed tail, then flew a short distance.

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, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*): Very distant long-winged Buteo spotted on a small tree along a fence line: through telescope it was clearly an adult with gray upper parts, darker face and sides of chest, white throat and under parts and with a white tail with narrow black subterminal band. Rusty shoulders were barely visible in lighting conditions. Not great conditions but we could see all critical features. This was at a stake-out spot where two birds (adult and immature) had been seen previously, but we could only detect the adult positively.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Distinctive species – white tail with subterminal band combined with other characters reported eliminates other species.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): No – too distant; poor viewing conditions. Photos by others.

19. Previous experience with this species: We are familiar with this and other Buteo-type species; have seen numerous WTHA in south TX and found Louisiana's 2nd occurrence near the Welsh landfill in the 1990's.

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:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 5 March 2018

Time: 2:00 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

Donna L. Dittmann and Steven W. Cardiff