

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: Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 dark morph, age and sex unknown
3. Parish: Cameron Parish
Specific Locality: Cameron Prairie NWR headquarters
4. Date(s) when observed: 1 Jan 2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 1:20
6. Reporting observer and address: Erik I. Johnson, 102 Goodwood Cir., Lafayette, LA 70508
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Ceci Johnson
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Deanna and Gordon Griggs saw the bird earlier along with Van Remsen and Amy Shutt, alerting us to the bird. After I refound the bird, Deanna and Gordon returned, studying the bird with Ceci and I.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): overcast, even muted light
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 20 – 60x Vortex spotting scope, 10x42 Swarovski EL binoculars, Nikon D7000 camera with 80-400 mm f/4.5-5.6 VR lens
11. Distance to bird(s): about 200 feet on the ground, and as close as 100 feet when

perched in the trees.

12. Duration of observation: watched continuously for about 10 minutes, but remained in area until we left about 45 minutes after we first saw it

13. Habitat: freshwater marsh/prairie/woodlot

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): First seen on ground, partially obscured by tall vegetation in the foreground. Then flew up to tree top about 100 feet away (and closer to us). Remained there for a while and then went to another tree top nearby, but we did not see it fly there. Remained there as we left.

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*):

All dark chocolate brown body with slight rusty tinge and slightly more rufous tones to upper wing coverts. Iris light brownish. Cere bright yellow with yellow “gape” or “grin patch”. Underside of flight feathers distinctly whitish and uppersides faintly barred and paler, especially outer primaries. The alulas and primary coverts were paler gray at the base than the tip, giving the upper outer wing a distinct pattern. Tail not seen well, but appeared brownish with narrow subterminal darker bar. Long wings. Tarsi dark (apparently feathered) contrasting against bright yellow toes. Not visible in the photos, but the bird appeared to have a couple of white feathers on the upper nape – were these just underfeathers exposed in the wind?

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Most similar to Red-tailed “Harlan’s” or perhaps dark morph red tail. These Red-tailed Hawks would look more chunky in flight with different upperwing pattern and would normally lack the yellow gape. Dark morph Swainson’s Hawk would also lack the yellow gape and have all-dark underwings. All likely candidate hawk species except Rough-legged would have unfeathered tarsi. Dark morph Rough-legged Hawk would have a more distinctly barred tail and subterminal band as a more uniformly colored upper-wing.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: None. A life bird. Very familiar with look-a-like dark Red-tails.

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: Sibley Guide to North American Birds vol 1, Pyle Guide to North American Birds vol 2, internet photos of various dark morph hawk species.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 1 Jan 2015

Time: 10:40 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