

## LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
1 adult light morph
3. Parish:  
Lafourche
4. Specific Locality:  
First observed on Hwy 3185 between Talbot Ave and Hwy 308
5. Date(s) when observed: 2/06/25
6. Time(s) of day when observed: ~12:30pm
7. Reporting observer: Joshua Sylvest
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):  
none
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):  
Delaina Leblanc, Jed Pitre, Kathy Rhodes, John Conover, among others, all relocated the bird and also got photos
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Intermittently cloudy/ overcast with occasional sun on the bird. Lighting varied from optimal to backlit as I repositioned myself for photos and as the bird eventually took flight.
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10x42, like new
12. Distance to bird(s): between 150m to 50 meters or less over the course of observation
13. Duration of observation: 15-20 minutes initially, then another 10 minutes or so a couple hours later
14. Habitat: Open field of maintained/fairly short grasses and forbs immediately adjacent to residential subdivision.
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Initially noticed the bird as I drove past it atop a power pole on my lunch break. It looked "good" from a distance, and as I got closer was able to note chestnut coloring on the back, a

plain white belly, and dark, feathered tarsi; so, I started shaking and screaming and turned my truck around in the entrance of the Towne Way neighborhood on the opposite side of the highway, about 180m from the bird. I got binocs on the bird at this point and noted the yellow gape in addition to previously mentioned field marks. I repositioned to King George Estates entrance and parked on side of the field, ~70m north of the bird. Lighting was fair and I began taking photos as I crossed the field to position myself south of the bird for more favorable lighting. I was less than 50 meters from the pole the bird was using when it took flight, making several passes overhead and circling just to my north.

16. 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):

The bird was very pale, not unlike Krider's or other very pale red-tailed hawks. It was a large, bulky Buteo, the pale head and mostly clear, white breast made it appear particularly large even from a distance. While perched, I noted the yellow cere and extended yellow gape. The dark feathered legs down to its feet stood out well, with a few rust-colored spots about the flanks. In flight, the underside of the bird was mostly pale; white wing linings with rust-colored spotting, mostly pale remiges from below with darker tips. The white "wrist" was apparent, and the underside of the tail was whitish. The dark, feathered legs were conspicuous. As the bird circled and banked, chestnut coloring on the back and shoulders was apparent, darker wingtips with white streaking/panels in the primaries. The mostly white tail from above was diffused with rust coloration.

17. Voice: none

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Red-tailed Hawks, especially Krider's or particularly pale individuals are superficially similar. This hawk had no belly band, dark, feathered tarsi, not dark patagial mark, and a conspicuous yellow gape extending below the eye.

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Photos by Josh Sylvest attached.

20. Previous experience with this species: Field guides and dreams.

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

none

22. Identification aids used when?

None used

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

Yes.

24. Date report completed:

2/7/2025

25. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

Yes

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

Yes















