

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Ferruginous Hawk

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

1 well-marked immature

3. Parish: Cameron

Specific Locality: Willow Island area from about 1 mile W of dogleg on Trosclair Road to Earl Road on the north side, and to the Gulf beach on the south.

4. Date(s) when observed: 21, 25, 26 November 2022

5. Time(s) of day when observed: seen on multiple days at various times

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul E. Conover
City:
State:

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Because there were up to three Ferruginous Hawks present at the time, I'm not sure which birds were reported as seen. I believe the immature birds were seldom reported.

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s):

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Various conditions, but on average, good looks were had.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10s, Nikon Fieldscope 20-60 zoom, Nikon D3500 camera.

11. Distance to bird(s): When first seen, 1/4 mile, but eventually down to the height of a telephone pole.

12. Duration of observation: a total into hours over the days of observation.

13. Habitat: Open pastureland with scattered trees to marshland and beach.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): First seen from Willow Island beach access road as it landed near Lebleu Woods trailer park area. It then launched and flew SW to beach, and to the E out of sight. Later found the same day along Trosclair Road 2 miles E of dogleg by Willow Island. On 25 and 26 Nov seen around Willow Island, Rec Center, and Lebleu Woods

area, and perching on phone poles along hwy nearby. Bird remarkably unconcerned with human presence even outside of vehicles.

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*):

Large long-winged hawk with very pale ground color below and large pale patches on outer primaries on upperwings.



Pale below, with buffy wash perhaps retained from juvenile plumage and various short streaks and distinct brown spots. Underwings with brown “wingbars” formed by dark brown internal markings on tips of covert rows, and with thin striped pattern on patagium. Outer primaries whitish dark tips starting at about the notch on the outer 5 feathers, with slight subterminal band on PP5-1. Secondaries whitish with weak subterminal band, and ghost pattern of this band just proximally.

Cheeks and sides of neck with thin brown streaks, weak belly band of sparsely scattered brown spots and chevrons, and pale rusty upper leggings banded with discrete rows of brown spots.

Tail below pale, whitish or grayish white, with at least three indistinct grayish bands.

Talons bright yellow. Tarsi feathered but color not seen well.

Above brownish with some reddish or buff tones on lesser coverts.

Rump white with large brown spots, tail pale-based, with three dark bands distally and grayish wash in area of bands.

Head streaked brown above and on to auriculars, giving a capped appearance. Cere yellow, gape yellow and extending back to level of mid-eye. Bill black, Eye medium brown or gray brown.

Secondaries brown, banded, perhaps lighter on inner webs. Outer primaries pale based, dark-tipped inner primaries light brown, thinly barred. Pale primaries contrasting markedly with secondaries and primary coverts.

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Redtail similar but underwing with dark patagial bar, pale patches on upperwings more on inner primaries, legs not feathered.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen out west as recently as June 2022, seen double digit times in Louisiana as well.

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from: Photo review.

22. Are you positive of your identification? Yes; positive.

23. Date: 6 December

Time:

24. 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? _____

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