

# 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 immature
3. Parish: Cameron  
Specific Locality: Willow Island area at dogleg on Trosclair Road
4. Date(s) when observed: 23 November 2022

5. Time(s) of day when observed: mid-morning

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): Phillip Wallace (finder), and David Muth

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): Bright sun, and very white bird, but light was in our favor with bird to the north of us.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10s, Nikon D3500 camera.

11. Distance to bird(s): perhaps 100 yards at closest

12. Duration of observation: about 2 minutes probably

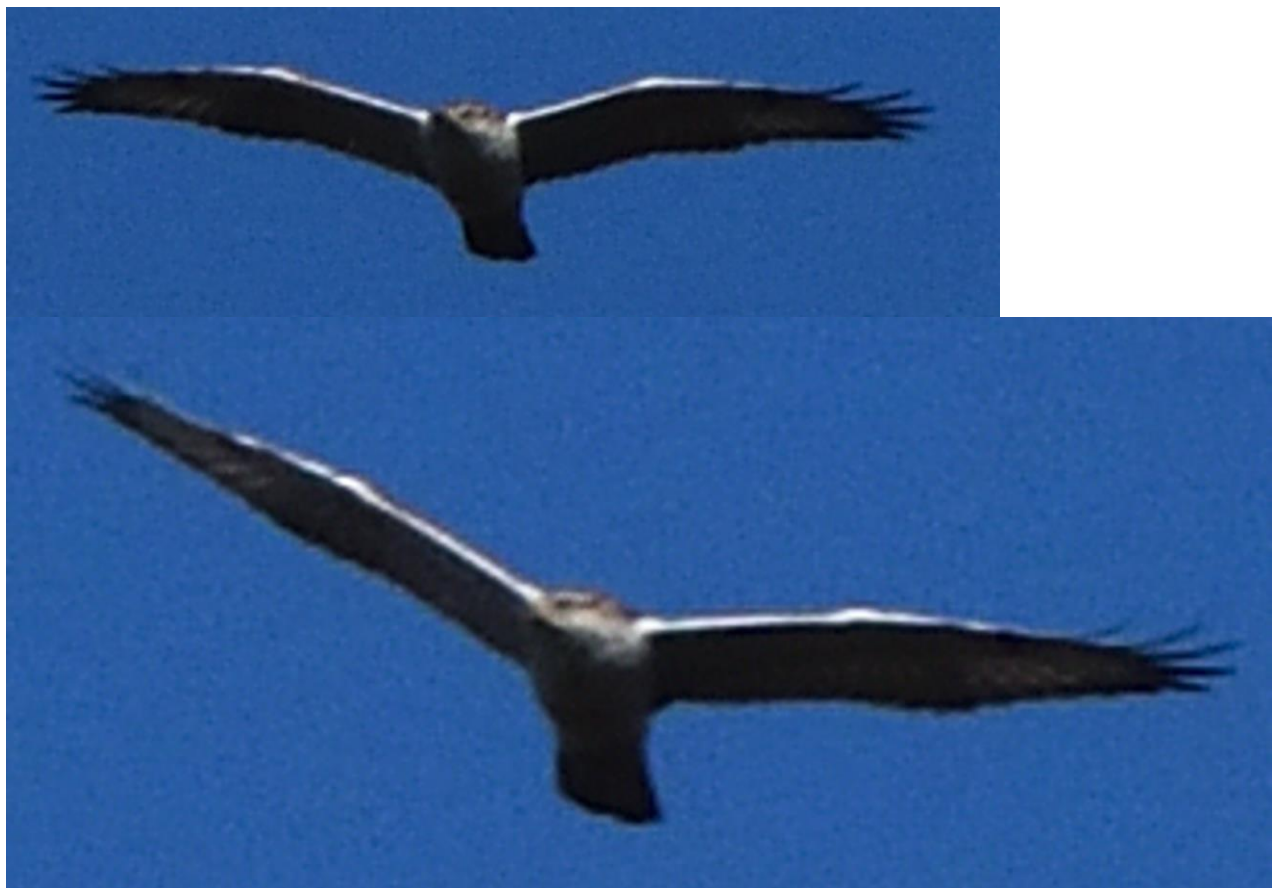
13. Habitat: Open pastureland with scattered trees

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): I left Willow Island as the last car in the group and as I rounded the bend of the road Phillip was pulled over and told me he'd had the Ferruginous Hawk. We assumed it was the same bird I'd seen a couple of days before. I parked and scanned and saw a FEHA not far to the W, soaring. I drove to the spot and watched it soar in circles. I took a couple of photos, and Muth pulled up. I got him on the bird, and it soared behind a group of trees. It should have come out in the open after a few seconds, but it was gone. We began to drive around looking for it. I noted a RTHA, 2 WTKI, and a PEFA soaring and drifting W so I went that way several miles, but never encountered the FEHA again. I got a text from Muth saying

they'd found the FEHA at the X of 27/82 and Trosclair, and returned, but after watching that bird I realized they'd discovered an adult FEHA. Later, Phillip sent me pictures of the bird we'd seen at the dogleg and it was an immature, but the pattern underneath seemed much different from my 21 Nov bird. A couple of days later I saw that Nov 21 bird and got pictures in lighting similar to the lighting in Phillip's pics, and felt confident that there were indeed 2 immatures present—as well as an adult—at that time.

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*):

I only saw this bird soaring from below and was waiting for it to bank, but it was clearly a Ferruginous Hawk that appeared very pale beneath. I thought the extreme whiteness was simply the result of bright sunlight, but in these pictures it's clear that the bird lacks a buffy wash below, and Phillip's pictures show a much different pattern of underwing markings from the 21 Nov bird. The underwing pattern on the bird is exceptionally pale, and the leg feathering appears unmarked white.







16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Redtailed Hawk, which is eliminated by underwing pattern.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen out west many times, and in Louisiana multiple times 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? \_\_\_\_\_