

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 adult
3. Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: Willow Island area at X of 27/82 and Trosclair Road
4. Date(s) when observed: 23, 26, 27 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): Mac Myers, Dave Patton (finder?), Phillip Wallace (finder?), David Muth, several others

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

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Bright sun overhead on first day, making most of the many hawks above us look translucent, so looks weren't great. In the following days I got many great looks at what turned out to be a very confiding bird that let me park and watch it from maybe 30 yards for tens of minutes at a time.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10s, Nikon Fieldscope 20-60 zoom, Nikon D3500 camera, Samsung S22 Ultra phone cam

11. Distance to bird(s): perhaps 30 yards at closest

12. Duration of observation: several hours

13. Habitat: Open marsh and 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): This bird was discovered while searchers were looking for a different FEHA. On discovery day the bird was apparently located perched, then launched and soared. On subsequent days I observed the hawk perched on phone poles and kiting over open country.

15. Description:

Large long winged hawk with rusty tones in the mantle and bright white underparts.

Underwings marked by blackish commas on the primary coverts of the underwings, with blackish marking continuing along the edges of the greater secondary coverts. Rusty brownish markings overlaying the same line as the blackish markings, as well as outlining the median and lesser covert edges. Patagia marked with dense pattern of fine longitudinal black and brown stripes. Outer primaries bright white at bases grading to gray near notches then blackish near the tips. Inner primaries and secondaries with broad dusky subterminal band and finer, well-spaced pale banding either on underwing or visible through the paleness of the underwing. Tail below pale with dark subterminal band comprised of irregular dark subterminal markings on rectrices, and at least two narrower, sparser echo bands evenly spaced proximal to subterminal band. Reddish wash either on undertail or visible through pale tail from uppertail. Breast with bright white ground color, with buffy bib with narrow dark streaks, and faint fine markings on belly; belly markings more concentrated and mixed with rusty flank feathering forming a sort of weak low belly band between legs and undertail. Undertail coverts bright clear white, extending more than halfway the length of the tail. Tibial feathering rusty and white with discrete dark chevrons forming punctuated barring, tarsal feathering rusty. Feet bright yellow.

Upperwings with lesser and median coverts with warm rusty ground color and dark brown internal markings, greater coverts gray with thin darker brownish-gray barring and broad brown-gray tip. Primaries grayish-white with thin, light widely spaced barring and darker tips, forming a bright primary panel contrasting with primary coverts and with darker gray, more thickly barred secondaries. Mantle warm rusty with darker brown markings, uppertail bright reddish with widely spaced dark bars, somewhat tiger striped; uppertail reddish with dark subterminal band like Red-tailed Hawk.

Head reddish brown, heavily streaked with mixture of narrow dark brown, rusty, and whitish streak. Streaked crown, broad eyestripe behind eye, darker malar contrasting slight with rustier supercilia and auriculars. Brownish top of head contrasting strongly with white throat, creating capped appearance.

Eye clear pale yellow, or yellowish gray. Bill large, with bright yellow cere extending back to pronounced yellow gape below eye.

Incredibly beautiful bird.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Red-tailed Hawk similar in some regards (such as red tail and somewhat marked patagia) but differs in important ways: feathered tarsi, pale-based primaries, strong gape, etc.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, by many. I took video and

photos. Stills and photos attached.

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

23. Date: 12 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? _____









