

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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: *Harris's Hawk*, *Parabuteo unicinctus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): *One adult*
3. Locality: Parish: Jefferson Davis
Specific Locality: Jefferson Davis Parish landfill
4. Date(s) when observed: *01 December 2017*
5. Time(s) of day when observed: *0710-0840 CST*
6. Reporting observer and address: *Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA*
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): *none*
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): *Many. This was a well-publicized bird, originally found by Ivan Fruge on 26 Nov 2017 (according to LABIRD post by Erik Johnson)*
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): *Bright morning light under a clear sky, with bird mostly to my west (and sun to my east)*
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): *add*
11. Distance to bird(s): *Probably 120-170 m, on average*
12. Duration of observation: *1.5 hr, off-and-on*

13. Habitat: [Mainly grassy slope of landfill, with a few scrubby patches; also pasture/treeline to east](#)

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): [Perching on, and flying among, vent pipes--often peering down from those perches, presumably hunting--on east slope of landfill \(immediately west of Landfill Rd\). Also flying over pasture east of road, and landing in tree line ca. 0.3 mi to east.](#)

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): [A large, long-tailed, long-legged hawk, all-dark brown head, throat, breast, belly, and back. White under and upper tail coverts, jet-black tail with white terminal band. Dark brown-blackish flight feathers contrasting with chestnut upperwing coverts. Chestnut thighs and underwing coverts. Bright yellow cere and thin yellow orbital ring; bill med-gray with dark tip; bright golden-yellow legs.](#)

16. Voice: [Gave a single harsh, relatively low-pitched scream-like call \(similar to several calls on xeno-canto\).](#)

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): [Adult Harris's Hawk is distinctive with few candidate species for confusion. Some juvenile, and the rare dark morph adult, White-tailed Hawk are similarly uniformly blackish on the head and body and rufous in the upperwing coverts, but would differ by lacking rufous underwing coverts \(and bright rufous thighs\), lacking bright white under and upper tail coverts, and in having a different tail pattern and shorter legs and tail.](#)

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): [Photos by Robert C. Dobbs, attached](#)

19. Previous experience with this species: [Extensive, in sw USA and Mexico, and various places in South America](#)

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

a. at time of observation: [none](#)

b. after observation: [none](#)

21. This description is written from: [__X__](#) notes made during the observation ([_____](#) notes attached?); [_____](#) notes made after the observation (date: [_____](#)); [_____](#) memory; [__X__](#) photos.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: Yes, positive of ID. With respect to provenance, this record coincides with a significant movement of Harris's Hawks north and east of the species' typical range this fall. According to eBird, there have been numerous birds documented on the upper Texas coast (Houston area, Beaumont), including multiple records at the Smith Point hawk (early Sep through mid-Nov), a single bird as far east as Mobile, Alabama, and numerous birds in the Great Plains from north Texas to northeast Nebraska (as of 04 Dec 2017). That this (Jeff Davis Par.) bird was not banded (both legs seen very well in scope, multiple times while perched), showed no signs of captivity, and did not act tame in any way, is also consistent with wild origin.

23. Date: 02 Dec 2017 Time: 1400 CST

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





