

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
1 adult
3. Parish: Orleans  
Specific Locality: Lake Forest Blvd. at Read Blvd., New Orleans East
4. Date(s) when observed: 28 November 2018
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 1342
6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: James W. Beck
City: Marrero
State: Louisiana
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Tamer Ahmed
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): Glenn Ousset, Tom and Jennifer Coulson
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Bird perched in open, lower canopy with clear skies
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Vortex 8x42 Diamondbacks
11. Distance to bird(s): ca. 20 yards
12. Duration of observation: ca. 3 minutes
13. Habitat: Edge of second growth woodlot, perched in *Melia azedarach* (Chinaberry), with surrounding small, empty lots
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird was found perched, apparently hunting the mostly open undergrowth, then flew away once it detected our presence. Bird is extremely skittish and does not allow close approach.
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*): Dark hawk, close to most Buteo hawks in size and shape, slightly longer tail than RTHA and RSH. Contour mostly chocolate brown with chestnut lesser and median coverts, as well as tibial feathers. Cere and legs/feet bright yellow. Tail dark with white terminal band/white undertail coverts.

Bird is behaving quite skittishly and does not allow close approach. All tail and wing feathers seem to be in good condition (versus any detection of wear sometimes developed in captivity) and there is no sign of any band(s), falconry anklets or jesses. Bird originally found by Glenn Ousset and subsequently seen by Tom and Jennifer Coulson, who are master falconers. The Coulsons have contacted all of their local (as well in Mississippi) falconry associates and no one is missing a bird.

16. Voice: n/a

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Not really many other species can be confused with Harris's Hawk. Dark calurus, harlani, etc. RTHAs lack the well-defined chestnut in wings and legging feathers. Feathers at base of tail and undertail coverts along with white terminal band also rule out atypically-patterned RTHAs.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, two images taken with my work cell phone (Samsung Android, version 1.9.4) attached.

19. Previous experience with this species: Have seen this species on many occasions in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana (twice; 2006 & 2009), Mexico and Costa Rica. I also have over 12 years of experience working with this species in captivity, both for education and falconry.

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:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 23 December 2018

Time: 1352

