

LBRC 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):
One (1) - adult
3. Parish:
Vermilion
4. Specific Locality:
Cypress Point Rd., Gueydan, LA 30.06772, -92.56289
5. Date(s) when observed: December 31, 2024
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 3:46 pm
7. Reporting observer: Tom and Claire Hanson
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
N/A
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
Phillip Wallace
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Sunny skies - we were driving East - the sun was behind us - the bird was facing South and we saw it on a pole on the left side of the road so the sun was shining on the bird so that we could see its color, size, etc. -
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): None used
12. Distance to bird(s): We drove by the hawk but quickly stopped and backed up - jumped out of the car to photograph - we were probably 28' to 30' ft. from the hawk - it initially was facing South but turned around on the pole - thus, the photos of its back end -
13. Duration of observation: 2 to 3 minutes
14. Habitat: The hawk was perched on a utility pole with no lines attached on the N side of the road. Farm fields, agricultural bins (silos) and farm houses nearby - some trees but not heavily wooded.
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): The hawk was resting on a pole; ruffled his feathers, pooped and took off away from us, flying

North but turned and actually flew to the South - the bird flew without any problems but our photos, as well as Phillip Wallace's, showed that it had an injured left wing

16. 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):

See photos - upon seeing the bird, we immediately knew it was a Harris's Hawk as we were literally driving home from Grand Chenier having spent a good part of our day looking for the Harris's Hawk that was seen several times at Grand Chenier - so we were familiar with what to look for on this bird - coloration, size, and the yellow on the face/bill, white on tail

17. Voice: No vocalization

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
After getting home - we double-checked our photos and had no doubt...

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):
Tom and Claire Hanson - attached

20. Previous experience with this species: None - other than having just researched the species in hopes of seeing the "continuing" bird at Grand Chenier

21. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
Sibley Birds East;

22. Identification aids used when?
After observation

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

24. Date report completed:
January 5 2025

25. 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?
Yes

26. If yes, may we include your name with the report?
Yes







