

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 or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at zoiseaux@lusfiber.net .

1. English and Scientific names: Rough-legged Hawk; *Buteo lagopus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 juvenile.
3. Parish: East Carroll
Specific Locality: Just south of Transylvania along Hwy 65 at Circle H Farm
4. Date(s) when observed: 16 February, 2018
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 2:50pm
6. Reporting observer and address: John Dillon, 183 Dance Road, Athens, LA 71003
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): N/A
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Originally found by Van Remsen on 13 Feb. Also seen by Roselie Overby, John Romano, Arthur Liles, and Willie Matthews prior to my sighting. Paul Conover, et al. reported it 17 Feb.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Overcast but fairly bright despite front that had just passed south of area.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Alpen Rainier 8x42 binoculars in very good condition.
11. Distance to bird(s): While perched, 250-400 feet. In flight, as close as 100 feet.

12. Duration of observation: 30 minutes

13. Habitat: Mississippi River delta; open farmland adjacent to river.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Found perched in large Pecan tree on east side of road. Flew and circled and landed in next tree to the south. Flew and circled again and landed on utility pole. Then flew north back to small Pecan orchard.

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*): Photos show pale buff head with light streaking in breast, solid and very dark belly band, heavily feathered yellow feet, and mostly brown above when perched. In flight, bird shows conspicuous dark carpal areas with pale underwing coverts that show faint rufous markings, white primaries above and below with black tips, black "fingers" on P6-P10, faint dark terminal band on trailing edge of underside of wing, secondaries all dark above and pale below with dark terminal band, white tail with wide, dark terminal band. Fairly small bill with yellow at base and black tip. Pale underwing coverts and mostly unstreaked breast ages the bird as a juvenile and not as adult female.

16. Voice: never vocalized.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): About the only species that might be present that would be similar would be a Krider's RTHA or perhaps a light morph Harlan's RTHA. Black belly band eliminates both. Pale juvenile WTHA is the only other buteo that shows dark belly band, but is eliminated by tail and underwing pattern.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, mine.

19. Previous experience with this species: Zero.

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

a. at time of observation: None. Stakeout bird.

b. after observation: Wheeler and Clark guides to age bird.

21. This description is written from:

memory
study of images

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

23. Date: 17 Feb, 2018

Time: 12:35pm

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_____





