

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: [White-tailed Hawk \(\*Geranoaetus albicaudatus\*\)](#)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): [1, adult \(ATY\), sex unknown](#)
3. Parish: [Jefferson](#)  
Specific Locality: [“Exxon Fields”, Orleans Ave, Grand Isle, LA](#)
4. Date(s) when observed: [11 March 2018](#)
5. Time(s) of day when observed: [9:15 am](#)
6. Reporting observer and address: [Erik I. Johnson, 102 Goodwood Cir., Lafayette, LA](#)
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): [none](#)
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): [seen by several \(fide eBird\) starting 14 October 2017, but apparently a hiatus in sightings between 11 November 2017 and 3 March 2018. Dale Bonk apparently saw the bird on 3 March 2018: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S43359111>. Apparent seen by Doug Gardner \(a BBC filmographer, but without cameras at the moment other than a cell phone\) and Jean Landry across from the TNC camp at the Exxon Fields on 14 March 2018. I encouraged Doug to send a report.](#)
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): [Overcast, even light, a little backlit, but details still easily visible](#)
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): [10x42 Swarovski EL binoculars, Swarovski 25-50x spotting scope, Samsung S6 smartphone camera](#)
11. Distance to bird(s): [About 100-200 feet](#)
12. Duration of observation: [5 minutes](#)
13. Habitat: [Open grassy fields, perched on utility pole](#)
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): [I was driving around Simon Blakeney, a BBC producer, to orient him to Grand Isle, when I noticed the White-tailed Hawk flying away from the car as we were approaching Orleans Ave from the north. I suspected it flushed from a telephone pole \(I wasn't really paying attention\), and snapped some digibin shots out the car window. The bird landed on another nearby pole along Orleans Ave, and we turned right on that road to get a little closer. I stopped the car, took out the spotting scope, and took some digi-scope images. After we admired](#)

the bird together for a few moments, it stayed there as we left the area.

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*):

A Red-tailed Hawk-sized Buteo-like hawk. In flight as it banked (facing away and banking to the right), the all-white tail with distinct black subterminal band was apparent. The shoulders weren't really visible, but the upperparts appeared approximately dark grayish against the overcast sky. As it landed, it was facing the far, showing it's all white underparts. Through the scope, I could see fine gray vermiculations along the sides of the chest, barely peaking out from the folded wings. The throat was white, contrasting against an otherwise **gray** head. As bird began preening, I could notice the rusty should patches every now and again.

16. Voice: Not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): From Red-tailed "Krider's" Hawk, Ferruginous, and Swainson's, etc. by black subterminal band, head color, and rusty shoulders. An adult-plumage White-tailed Hawk is quite distinctive.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen a few over several trips to TX, but it's been several years. It's a bird I've chased a number of times in LA and dipped on, and this is my first adult in some time.

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

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: Sibley Guide to NA Birds, Audubon smartphone app

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: 22 March 2018

Time: 2:30 pm











