

Species: RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

Buteo lineatus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): May 5, 1976

Time Bird Seen: 3:45 P.M.

to 3:50 P.M.-MDT

Locality: Bonny Reservoir (below dam about one mile east of Hale).

Nearest Town: Idalia

County: Yuma

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
None		

Optical Equipment: 10X50 Bushnell Binoculars

If photographed, type of equipment used: _____

Light Conditions: Bright; Clear. Bird sailed in and out of sun.

Distance from bird (how measured): From 150 to 500 feet; estimated.

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: Adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Flew in low over tree tops from the northeast and caught a thermal. Soared in circles drifting off to the southwest.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Small buteo (smaller and slimmer than Red-tailed Hawk which was also soaring nearby). Typical buteo shape - broad, rounded wings; large, fanned tail; chunky body. Wings were not as broad as displayed by the nearby Red-tailed Hawk. Head, brownish appearing. Underparts, including wing linings, pale reddish. Wing primaries and secondaries light with heavy barring (under wing surface). Translucent windows very prominent at the base of the primaries (not necessarily diagnostic). Tail, dark and marked with four or five thin light bands. Dark bands much broader than light bands. I did not get a good look at the upper parts.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

Bird was silent.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Riparian woodlands bordered by farmlands.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Broad-winged Hawk: Also a small buteo but has broad white bands in the tail which are roughly the same width as the black bands. This species is chunkier with a more stubby tail than the Red-shouldered or Red-tailed. Lacks extensive barring on underwing surface in the primaries and secondaries.

Red-tailed Hawk: (Immature) - Would be larger and heavier with brown tail marked with dark bands. Would also lack reddish underparts of Red-shouldered.

Red-tailed Hawk: (Melanistic) - Would be larger and heavier but with reddish (dark) underparts and wing linings. However, melanistic Red-tails have typical "red tail".

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Have seen many Red-shoulders throughout the United States - Chicago area where it is rather common; North Carolina; California; Long Island, New York. Have seen three times before in Colorado. Also very familiar with Broad-winged Hawk again from the Chicago area, Long Island, New York, North Carolina (mountains) and regularly in Colorado during migration.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Standard Field Guides don't really help much in separating some species of Hawks.

This report was written from notes made during X after observation; from memory

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