

Species: Red-shouldered Hawk

Buteo lineatus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 27 September 1976

Time Bird Seen: _____ to _____

Locality: Barr Lake State Park

Nearest Town: Brighton

County: Adams

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

None

Optical Equipment: 7 X 50 binoculars

If photographed, type of equipment used: _____

Light Conditions: heavily overcast

Distance from bird (how measured): minimum estimated distance: 50 ft.

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Immature

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

The bird was always observed either perched just below the canopy of the cottonwoods or in flight through the trees about mid-way between the ground and the tops of the trees, never going above the trees or beyond the edge of the trees.

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:

A rather small buteo (so small my first reaction was Broad-winged Hawk). The upperparts were plain brown, with some white markings on back and scapulars. Tail was brown crossed by several (5-6) darker brown bars. Underparts were white, with numerous streaks consisting of brown tear-shaped marks, covering most of the underparts from throat to slightly beyond the legs, strongest on the breast and only slightly less strong on the belly. Upperwing surface in flight appeared to have pale area on the primaries, but I am not sure. I saw the bird fly only twice, both times through the trees and only for a rather short distance, so I was not able to get a really good look at the tail or wing pattern, or the overall shape of the bird in flight. Legs yellow.

(OVER)

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

Several times the bird uttered the distinctly two-syllabled scream, "kee-ar" that readily identifies the Red-shouldered Hawk.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Tall cottonwood growth at edge of the lake.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Red-tailed Hawk-A larger bird, with most of the streaking on underparts concentrated toward the belly. Generally not so strongly attached to the woods, and keeping below the canopy. Voice different: a single, descending scream, not a two-syllabled one.
Broad-winged Hawk-An even small bird, with a much different call.
Swainson's Hawk-Again, a very different type of call note.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I have seen many, many Red-tailed and Swainson's Hawk, including many in immatures plumage, and have also heard them. I have seen Broad-winged Hawks several times in Colorado, including at least 1 immature. I have seen adults Red-shouldered Hawks in Texas, and 2 immatures in Colorado: Prewitt Reservoir 13 April 1968 and Boulder 9 November 1974-25 January 1975.

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

Standard guides confirmed identification. Field Guide to Western Bird Songs also listened to, and it confirmed the sound identification.

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

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