

☒ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD ☐ NEW STATE RECORD

FILE NO. 10-77-73
☒ ACCEPTED ☐ REJECTED

Species: RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

Buteo lineatus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): September 2, 1977 Time Bird Seen: 1730 to 1735

Locality: WELD / LARIMER COUNTY LINE, HIGHWAY 14 (OLD) 2 MILES EAST OF FORT COLLINS

Nearest Town: FORT COLLINS, COLORADO County: LARIMER → WELD

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Optical Equipment: BINOCULARS, 10x50 WIDE ANGLE (JASON)

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: GOOD, BIRD ILLUMINATED WELL FROM SUNLIGHT BEHIND ME (TO WEST)

Distance from bird (how measured): 350 TO 375 ft AT MOST. ESTIMATED

Number of Birds Seen: ONE Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: ADULT

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: I FIRST OBSERVED THE HAWK FLYING DUE SOUTH AT AN ALTITUDE OF PERHAPS 75'. FLIGHT WAS DIRECT UNTIL, AS THE BIRD CROSSED HIGHWAY 14 SEVERAL RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS BEGAN HARASSING IT, CAUSING THE RED-SHOULDERED HAWK TO BEGIN A SOARING-TYPE OF FLIGHT, STILL CONTINUING SOUTH, BUT AT A SLOWER RATE OF PROGRESS. BIRD APPEARED UNHURRIED, BUT STILL WITH A PURPOSE OF DIRECTION - MOST LIKELY MIGRATING.

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:

SIZE: LARGER THAN CROW, SIMILAR TO SWAINSON'S HAWK. WINGSPREAD APPROX. 4'- POSSIBLY SLIGHTLY LESS. BODY LENGTH APPROX 19"-22", TAIL LONGER AND LESS "FAN-LIKE" IN SOARING POSITION THAN OTHER BUTEOs.

SHAPE: WINGS AND TAIL MORE ELONGATE THAN TYPICAL BUTEO, GENERAL BODY ELONGATE, NOT A "CHUNKY" SHAPE IN FLIGHT, THOUGH NOT ENTIRELY SIMILAR TO AN ACCIPITER.

PLUMAGE: IN GOOD CONDITION, FULL MOON HAD TAKEN PLACE SAVE ONE "NOTCH" ON LEFT WING WHERE 3rd OF 4th PRIMARY WAS NOT FULL LENGTH. CHEST RED - MORE "SOLID" RED THAN CROSS BARRED, GRADING INTO A LIGHTER, CREAMY UNDER TAIL COLORATION. TAIL BARRED - VERY DISTINCTLY, WITH THE WHITE BANDS BEING REDUCED, BLACK DOMINANT (FOUR DISTINCT FROM UNDERNEATH, FIVE FROM ABOVE WHEN BANKING), TERMINAL WHITE BAND. WINGS RED (WHEN I SAY RED I MEAN A REDDISH-BRICK ORANGE COLOR) OVER UNDER WING COVERETS WITH NO DISTINCTIVE WRIST MARKINGS. PRIMARIES AND SECONDARIES EDGED IN BLACK, THOUGH REMAINDER OF PRIMARIES AND SECONDARIES LIGHTER IN COLOR PROGRESSING AWAY FROM BODY ON THE UNDER SURFACE, FORMING A CLEAR, SEEMINGLY TRANSPARENT SPOT AT THE INTERFACE OF THE UNDERWING COVERETS AND PRIMARIES. WHEN BANKING WHILE SOARING ~~THE~~ DORSAL SIDE OF BIRD PRESENTED EXPOSING THE OBVIOUS "RED-SHOULDER" MARKS ON THE FORWARD INSIDE SHOULDER REGION - BALK RED IN COLOR, REST OF BALK MOTILED DARK BROWN - HEAD REGION ~~RETAINING~~ SOME REDDISH STREAKING, BACK WITH GRAY. (OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: NO VOCALIZATIONS WERE MADE, INDICATING TO ME THIS BIRD WAS A MIGRANT - IF PERMANANT OR TEMPORARY RESIDENT I FEEL THE HAWK WOULD HAVE VOCALIZED WHEN HARASSED

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird: IRRIGATED AGRICULTURAL LANDS INTERSPERSED WITH COTTONWOOD ^{GROVES} ~~WOODS~~, IRRIGATION DITCHES, OVER GROWN DISCLIMAX ALONG ROADWAYS, SOME PASTURELAND.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

THE HAWK WAS RECOGNIZED AS A BUTED BY THE FLIGHT PATTERN FROM A DISTANCE - WING BEATS SLOW AND IRREGULAR AS OPPOSED TO QUICK AND FAIRLY REGULAR. THE OBVIOUSLY BLACK AND WHITE BARRED TAIL ELIMINATED MOST OF THE BUTES COMMON IN THE AREA - THE REDTAIL, FERROUGINOUS, AND IMM. & ADULT SWAINSON'S HAWK. THE BROAD-WINGED HAWK WAS ELIMINATED BY THE PATTERN OF TAIL BANDING (AMOUNT OF WHITE => BLACK IN B.W.), LACKING IN THE BROAD-WING ALSO ARE THE REDDISH UNDERWING COVERETS FOUND ON THIS BIRD, AS WELL AS THE WRIST MARKS POSSESSED BY B.W. HAWKS. A POSSIBLE OUT OF RANGE HARRIS HAWK WAS ELIMINATED EASILY BY THE DISSIMILAR TAIL BANDING IN THE BIRD I OBSERVED AND FIELD GUIDE ~~DESCRIPTORS~~ DESCRIPTIONS OF THE HARRIS HAWK. ANY FURTHER POSS. CONFUSION WITH THE GENUS ACCIPITER WAS ELIMINATED WHEN THE DORSAL SURFACE WAS EXPOSED - RED SHOULDER'S ~~RED~~ MOTILED BLACK & WHITE AS EXPOSED TO BLUE-BREY IN ADULT ACCIPITERS.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I SPENT THREE YEARS BANDING RAPTORS IN VIRGINIA, MARYLAND, & NEW JERSEY WHERE THE RED-SHOULDERED HAWK WAS OUR THIRD MOST COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED SPECIES AS A NESTING RAPTOR. IN ADDITION I WORKED TWO AUTUMNS AS A BANDER AT THE CAPE MAY POINT RAPTOR BANDING STATION, CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY WHERE RED-SHOULDER HAWKS WERE COMMON TO UNCOMMON MIGRANTS. I HAVE BANDED SOME 20-25 RED-SHOULDER HAWKS.

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

ALTHOUGH I WAS CERTAIN OF THE IDENTITY OF THIS BIRD, I DID CHECK IN PETERSON'S & ROBBINS' FIELD GUIDES IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OBSERVATION TO BE SURE IN THE ELIMINATION OF OTHER SIMILAR SPECIES.

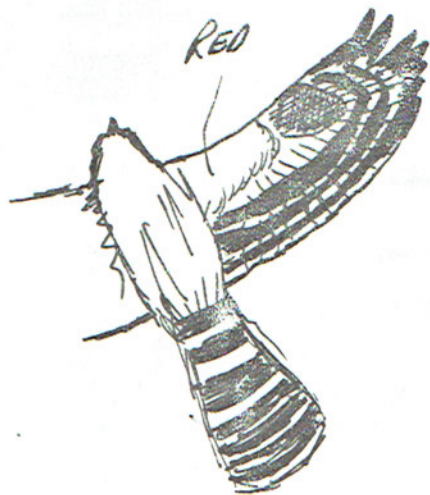
This report was written from notes made during X after observation; from memory X

PRINT NAME: BRIAN A MILLSAP SIGNATURE: Brian Millsap DATE: 10/1/77
Street Address: 1746 AZALEA ST # 2 Town and State: FORT COLLINS, CO ZIP: 80521

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 1450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

LOWE, 1941, DESCRIPTION OF DIK-

THE DORSAL SURFACE OF THE PRIMARIES, SECONDARIES; WERE
DISTINCTLY BARRED - WHITE, BLACK, WHITE, BLACK, WHITE, BLACK, GREY.



DORSAL
SURFACE - BARRED SIMILAR TO
THIS (FROM MY FIELD NOTES
ON THE BIRD)