

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☐

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Red-shouldered Hawk

Buteo lineatus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name)

Date(s): Nov 18, 1978

Number of birds seen: one

Sex: ?

Plumage: Immature

Locality: South Platte River, 1/2 mile upstream from

Elevation: 5400

Chatfield Res.

Nearest town:

County:

Littleton

Jefferson

Time(s) observed: 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.) Sporadically, 10-15 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Urling Kingery

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):  
none knownLight conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):  
Good

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7x35 Binoculars; 25x scope while bird was perched.

Distance, and how measured: 50 feet in tree; various when flying.

If photographed, type of equipment and film: n/a

n/a

Who else photographed the bird?

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

When first seen, the bird perched alongside the perimeter road in a 40-foot cottonwood (or box elder), about 25 feet up. After we viewed it through the scope, we flushed it; it flew low across the road into the denser cottonwood forest. As we walked through the forest, we flushed it from unseen perches two or three times.

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

Each time it flew, it kept below the canopy, possibly 2/3 of the distance up from the ground and 1/3 below the canopy. It flew among the trees and never left the forest or began soaring during our observations.

The bird was a fairly large buteo, Red-tailed size or slightly smaller. When perched, facing us, we could see vertical streaking all the way from the chin or beak down to the base of the tail. The streaking was clearly evident from chin, breast, and belly to tail, although slightly heavier on the belly.

In flight, the underwings were undistinguished; slightly barred or mottled.

The tail had dark bands across a medium brown background, particularly when viewed from above.

Description, (continued)

SIMILAR SPECIES:

Red-tailed: This species does not stick to the trees, or fly underneath the canopy. It lacks continuous streaking from chin to tail, which our bird had.

Broad-winged: This species has very pale underwings ("almost shocking white" according to B. Webb), not like our bird's rather undistinguishing underwing markings. Our bird was larger than the Broad-winged.

Rough-legged: no rump patch on our bird, no dark belly band. Ours had only slightly darker streaking at the belly. Not a forest bird.

Ferruginous: Ferr. also has a white rump and tail. Not a forest bird.

Swainson's: Swainson's is not a forest bird. Breast/belly streaking on our bird was on a light background, not a buffy one. The bands on our bird were broader than the narrow bands of the Swainson's.

Accipiters: Our bird was a buteo, with the wrong wing and tail conformation for an accipiter, and ours did not fly as fast as Accipiters fly.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

A two-syllable whistle heard twice; we were not sure if this bird gave the cry or not; we did hear it twice, on two different times when the bird was in flight.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

~~At~~ Cottonwood river bottom.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Above ; the combination of plumage and behavior.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

Fairly broad experience with all buteos, except only with adult Red-shouldered.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation:

b) after observation: The tail of our bird resembled the photograph of the Red-shouldered in the article in CFO Journal. I referred to that article and discussed the observation with Bruce Webb.

This report was written from notes made during \_\_\_\_\_, after xx observation; from memory \_\_\_\_\_.

Date and time report was written: Dec. 3 1978

Reporting observer: Hugh Kindery

Signature: Hugh Kindery

Address: 860 Milwaukee Street, Denver 80206

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below.

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,  
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