

Red-shouldered Hawk
Horsetooth Reservoir
Larimer County
June 5, 1993
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After parking at the north end of the dam breast at Horsetooth Reservoir at approximately 10:30 AM, we observed a hawk sitting in a tree up on the hillside northeast of us. It was approximately 75-100 yards away. We observed it with 8.5X binoculars and it appeared to be an adult Red-shouldered Hawk. We then observed it through our Questar and noted the following.

The bird was sitting at an approximately right angle to us so we could see both the breast, wing, back and tail. The shape was buteo, short tail. The plumage was typical Red-shouldered Hawk, rufous wash on the breast, becoming barring lower down. Black and white checkered pattern in the visible primaries/secondaries. Chestnut shoulder patch. Finely barred black and white tail.

The bird stayed on its perch the entire time we were there, about a half hour. We did not see it fly.

The bird was not one of the washed out paler races that we have seen in California and Florida.

The wing and tail pattern ruled out all other species. The tail barring was too small to be a Broad-winged Hawk, and the wing pattern is not found in any other species of hawk.

We did not realize the rarity of this sighting until a few days later when we acquired *Colorado Birds*, otherwise we would have photographed it.

We are both very experienced with this species in our home state of Pennsylvania. Frank was an "official" hawk counter at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary for many years, led the panel discussion on hawk identification at the first HMANA conference in 1974, and has given many hawk identification lectures. We are both members of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee and editors of *Pennsylvania Birds*.