

ACCEPT 6-1

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

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

Species: Red-shouldered Hawk
(Vernacular Name)(Buteo lineatus)
(Scientific Name)Date(s): 2 October 1999Number of birds seen: (1) Sex: ? Plumage: Adult but more likely CA immatureLocality: Poudre River and adjacent ditch between Prospect Rd. and N. Co Environmental Learning Center Elevation: 5000'Nearest town: Fort Collins County: LarimerTime(s) observed: 3 pmDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 4 times for about 10-15 seconds each

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

None

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

None

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Good - bird was east of me or southeast of me for 3 of the 4 observations @ mixed clouds/sun coming from behind me (for the most part). One view was from the east looking west into the light.
Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8x42 B&L ElitesDistance, and how measured: Estimated 30-50 yards (all four observations)If photographed, type of equipment and film: —Who else photographed the bird? —

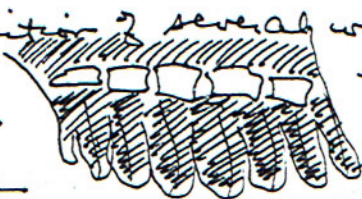
Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Bird was seen taking off, flapping & gliding from tree perches, about 20-30 feet above ground or water, usually landed about 50 yards away in another tree crown.

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:

Bird seemed about the overall length & wing span of Red-tail, perhaps a bit smaller. Body was slender and the bird had an overall "gangly" appearance: the tail seemed longish, as were the wings. Outstanding field mark was a whitish (not tan), fairly wide band that crossed the upper surface of the wing about at the base of the primaries. This did not appear as a clean rectangle but rather was

Description (continued): was the addition of several whitish squares with imperfect junctions → overall bird was medium brown above with lots of banding on wing and tail. I did not see



bird flying in this direction

a strong reddish color on the upperparts but there was a warm red-brown across the back or upper (base) wing in one view. Tail bands were not counted but there were several (more than adult Broadwing). When gliding, wings were held in bowed position. Heavily striped underneath.

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

No sounds heard. Description from above continued:

I never saw the bird sitting and was never able to get a lot of detail. Identification is based on jizz and the crescent and the glide posture + "jizz" didn't seem typical of red-tail and broadwing, other hawks one might expect in rich riparian habitat.

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

Riparian woodland dominated by live and dead cottonwoods plus boxelder, willow and occasional green ash, silver maple and American elm + Russian olive and shrubs. I would call this area "high quality" dense waterway forest with both a ditch (broad) and a river (wide & slow-moving at this time of year).

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Red-tail does not normally have a clearly defined crescent on the upper surface of the wing in combination with the glide profile and long slender body. I believe the bird was an immature because of lack of red; instead blacks & white above. The white color of crescent perhaps indicates this was a California race immature Red-shoulder.

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

I have seen thousands of Red-tails, dozens of CO broadwings and 5 Red-shoulders in Colorado. I have seen dozens more Red-shoulders in Ohio & California.

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

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: 3rd edition of Nat'l. Geo, Hawks on Flight, Hawk Field Guide (Peterson series), Advanced Birding

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation X from memory X

Date and time report was written: 10 Oct 1999

Reporting observer: David A. Leatherman Signature: David A. Leatherman

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Return to:
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