

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

18-1987

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Common Name: BROAD-WINGED Hawk

Scientific Name: Buteo platypterus

Date: 9/27/87

Time: 12:30 PM

Length of time observed: 45 min.

Number: 1

Age: IMM.

Sex: ?

Location: 18 miles south of the intersection of the Promontory road and the Golden Spike road.

Latilong: 2

Elevation (if known): Close to lake level
4240 ±

Distance to bird: most observation @ 30 yds. Light conditions:

Optical equipment: moved in to within 10 ft to flush it. Excellent
Tasco Binos 10X5 Scope 18 → 36X

Weather:

Clear/warm

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Small butes - only slightly larger than ♀ Cooper's but with a shorter tail

Dorsal surface, color dark brown, ventral surface off white with very fine streaking

Dark mustache and a narrow light eyebrow were only face pattern visible - reminiscent of Prairie Falcon, but mustache blended in with dark brown of neck & bordered throat (not set apart in the throat)

In flight, the tail showed wide light colored bands & dark subterminal. Perched, the folded wings extended maybe half way down tail

In flight, ventral surface of wings were very clean off white with only tips of flight feathers dark (all wing feathers were dark-tipped giving it a dark trailing edge)
Iris color dark brown.

Overall appearance was a stocky tiny bute, and I hesitate to use the phrase broad-winged appearance, but with longer wings than an accipiter

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

none heard

Behavior:

Sat motionlessly on where an electrical wire met the pole (not sitting on pole). Sat tight until I got right under it then flushed, soared away, then perched 3 poles away.

Habitat:

Promontory is dry grass and sage in the area that this bird was perched - the poles are the highest points around.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

Swainson's - imm - sounds dumb, but the faces look and "feel" different, also 1° & 2° are darker all the way to under wing coverts on Swainson's (this only had dark trailing edge) Swainson's usually have light forehead (this bird didn't) - Swainson's wing tips at rest are as long as tail (this bird's wing tips were only $\frac{1}{2}$ down tail). Swainson's tail seems more barred than this bird.

Red shouldered imm like the B.W. the Red Shrike. has a longer tail, but the dark bands are wider than the light bands (in this bird the light bands were the widest). Wings on the R.S. are proportionately longer and the dark trailing edge isn't as dark and complete as this bird's. No Crescent shaped wing panel was seen (but neither was a rectangular one!) Breast barring in the Calif. subspecies is usually quite heavy (this bird was lightly barred) - iris color of imm R.S. is usually yellowish (this bird had brown iris)

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Broad-winged - none

Red-shouldered - seen them on several occasions in field

Red-tailed
Cooper's, Prairie
Swainson's

In hand experience of many color morphs of both adults and immatures

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Peterson's field guide to hawks gave me many useful hints on what to look for (tail bands, wing-tail proportion, ventral surface of wings, etc.) but description is from field observation.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

probably Uncommon Transient

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

field notes attached

Description from notes taken at time of sighting ☒ notes made later ☒ from memory ☐

Observer:

CRAIG L. KNEEDY

Signature:

Address:

314 S. 4500 W.

West Point, Utah

84015

Craig Kneedy

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

None

Date prepared:

10/12/87

Return this form to:

Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120

Broadwing LOOK AT:

WING TIPS PERCHED OR
 WIDER LIGHT BARS THAN DARK OR
 UNDER SURFACE OF WING - TRAILING EDGE OK
 RECTANGULAR WINDOW UNDER WING
 Can't tell

□ Golden sp.

9/27/87
 12:30 - 1:25 pm

18 miles

Promontory

DARK IRIS R.O. R.T.
 R.S.

light pupa

DARK MOUTH

Acceptor size
 Chunky

DARK BROWN

little or no
 mottling

Dark tips on primaries

dark
 no patagium R.O. R.T.

few
 light breast
 streaks

white throat

Light tail
 BLACK STRIPES
 R.O. R.S.

Dark tips on
 10, 20
 lighter bases
 10, 20

wing tip about
 1/2 length down
 tail

R.O. R.T.
 Sammon's

R.O. Sammon's

Dark stripes on lighter tail
 widest on end - two or 3
 more dark bands

light tip

