

20-1987

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UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Common Name: BLACK VULTURE

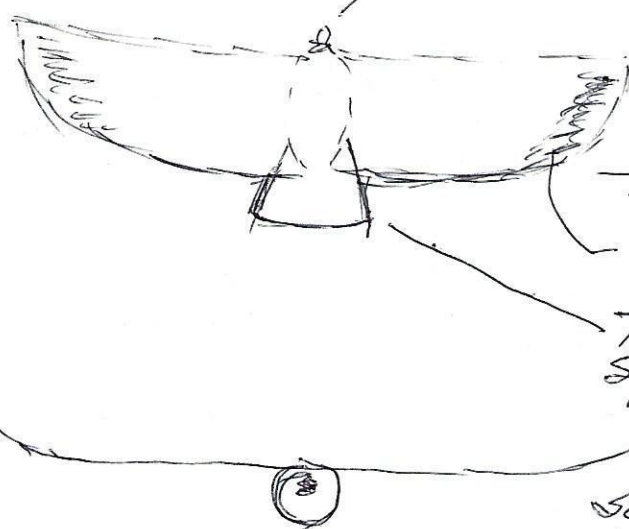
Scientific Name:

Date: SEPT 24, 1987 Time: 10:55 AMLength of time observed: 25-30 MINUTESNumber: 2 Age: YUNKSex: YUNKLocation: TOWNSHIP 40, RANGE 17, SECTION 26, SUB-SECTION 6

Lat/long:

Elevation: ABOUT 4200 FT. ABOVE SEA LEVELDistance to bird: 300-400 FTLight conditions: GOOD-Optical equipment: 10X50 BUSHNELL BINOCULARS
20 TO 60 X60 TASCO SPOTTING SCOPEWeather: HIGH-LIGHT BROKEN OVERCAST. VISIBILITY UNLIMITED

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

LACK OF RED HEAD -
HEAD - DIRTY GREY

- BODY - HEAVIER OR FATTER THAN TURKEY VULTURE
WING SPREAD - A LITTLE SHORTER THAN TURKEY VULTURE -
LIGHT APPEARANCE - UNLIKE TURKEY VULTURE
TAIL BROAD & STUBBY - ALMOST SQUARE

- ~~IN~~ IN FLIGHT THE WING SET WAS FLAT - MORE LIKE AN EAGLE - IT DID NOT HAVE THE V SET AS TURKEY VULTURE.

NOTE

DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE - JULY - AUG - SEPT OF 1985 - I SAW 2 LARGE BIRDS - FITTING THE ABOVE DESCRIPTION. THEY WERE ~~SEE~~ SEEN OFF AND ON ALL SUMMER - TOWNSHIPS 39-40-41-42 - RANGE 16 - BEGINNING ON HIGHWAY - 21-18 - GOING NORTH TO UEGO UTAH, SEEMED TO BE VERY SHY & HARD TO PHOTOGRAPH. BY THE TIME I COULD GET MY VEHICLE STOPPED - THEY WOULD LEAVE.

Voice or call notes: NONE

Behavior: — FLIGHT - SEVERAL SHORT FLAPS OF THE WINGS
THEN WOULD GLIDE OR SOAR -

Habitat: — MOUNTAIN DESERT AREA. MOSTLY SAGE
BRUSH

Describe what specific features you saw or heard that caused you to reach your conclusion:

FLIGHT - SHAPE OF BODY & WINGS -
LACK OF RED HEAD

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

TURKEY VULTURE - LACK OF RED HEAD. SHAPE
OF WINGS & TAIL. FLIGHT

What experience have you had with this and similar species: FOR 20 MONTHS I
HAVE GIVEN 4 HOURS A WEEK TO THE BLM ON A BIRD COUNT.
PRIOR TO THAT FOR 3 YEARS - OFF & ON.

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

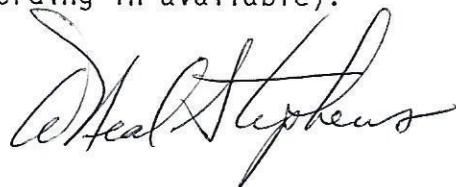
AUDUBON SOCIETY - FIELD GUIDE TO N. AMERICAN BIRDS. (WESTERN REGION)
AUDUBON SOCIETY - MASTER GUIDE TO BIRDING
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC - FIELD GUIDE. BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA
PETERSON FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN BIRDS

Significance of record in this area or the state: UNKNOWN

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

Observer: W. NEAL STEPHENS
PO BOX 156
Address: WASHINGTON, UTAH 84780

Signature:



Other observers who independently identified this bird: UNKNOWN

Date prepared: SEPT. 29-1987 - REVIEWED NOTES - OCT 9, 1987

Return this form to: Utah Ornithological Society
C/O Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120