

Common Name: Red-shouldered Hawk Scientific Name: *Buteo lineatus*
 Date: 12 Feb 1991 Time: 1230-1240 Length of time observed: 10 min.
 Number: 1 Age: Sex:
 Location: adjacent to Virgin River at St. George, Washington Co.
 Latilong: 19 Elevation (if known): ~ 3000'
 Distance to bird: 100 to 200 ft. Light conditions: good
 Optical equipment: 20x scope
 Weather: clear, 60°, no wind.

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

When I first saw this bird, at about 200 ft., I suspected it was a ♀ Cooper. But when viewed thru the scope & later in flight, it obviously wasn't. Subject bird was about the size of a ♀ Cooper with a longish tail (for a Buteo). Back was brownish, mottled with tan. Head was mostly dark brown. Wings were dark brown, & in flight a whitish "window" was observed at the base of the primaries. Breast was conspicuously barred with red-orange. Tail was dark grayish-brown with several (4-5) narrow white bands. Belly and undertail were light brown. Legs, feet, & cere were yellow.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: not heard

Behavior: Bird was perched in tall willows. Flew a couple of times. Flight pattern similar to shrike: would drop from perch toward ground, fly a few feet above ground, then sweep up into trees to land.

Habitat:

Scattered willows & salt cedars, adjacent to a marsh.

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

Broad-winged Hawk is smaller, tail has fewer & broader white bands & is much shorter. Breast barred with brown, not orange. No window in wings.

Red-tail - much stockier, shorter tail (proportional to body), no white tail bands, no window in wing.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Have observed Red-shouldered in Calif & East U.S., once previously in Utah. Broad-winged - east U.S.

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

None.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

2nd record from this area - others in Dec 84. Also a couple of undocumented sightings.

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

Description from notes taken at time of sighting ✓ notes made later from memory

Observer: Steve Hedges

Signature: 

Address: 306 W. 970 N.
Cedar City, UT 84720

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Craig Kneedy reported 2 from same general area.
Bob Douglas reported 1 from same area a week later.

Date prepared: 4/11/91

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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