

13-1991

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: BROAD-WINGED HAWK

Scientific Name: *Buteo platypterus*

Date: MAY 5, 1991

Time: 11:32 AM

Length of time observed: 4 1/2 min.

Number: 1

Age: ADULT

Sex: ?

Location: City Creek Canyon - at covered reservoir

Latilong: 5

Elevation (if known): 5,000 ft ?

Distance to bird: 30 m

Light conditions: Excellent

Optical equipment: 10 x 50 Binos

Weather: WARM / Clear

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

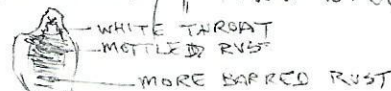
Small buteo approx. size of ♀ Cooper's hawk, but with noticeably shorter tail and chunkier body.

Perched: Upper parts - back, nape, and crown an even medium brown.



tail - black & white banded with colors being approx SAME WIDTH. (quite wide)
(2) ~~two~~ white bands of equal width to the 3 black bands - a fine terminal white band

Underparts - throat, white; upper breast - mottled rusty; lower breast and belly appeared more barred rusty



IN FLIGHT: UNDER WING WAS RUSTY ON LEADING EDGE AND axillar region (all basically the same color as breast & belly)

From underneath the primaries & secondaries were light colored (off-white) with only the tips of the primaries and the outer secondaries dark



WINGS DID APPEAR SHORT & BROAD ESPECIALLY IN COMBINATION WITH SHORT TAIL

AS BIRD FLEW PAST, I FELT I COULD SEE MORE WHITE BANDS IN TAIL PROBABLY 4 TOTAL (FROM TOP)

Eye - dark; cere - bright yellow; Bill - dark (contrasted obviously with cere)
Legs - yellowish.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: None heard

Behavior: Bird sitting quietly half way down in cottonwood - watched it for some time but didn't flush until I waved arms at fairly close range (30 m)

Habitat: Riparian Cottonwoods

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

Cooper's/Sharp-shinned - different body shape and tail proportions - tail barred with black & white dorsally not black & brown - flight style totally different - back color brown, not gray or slate.
Red-shouldered - tail of r-s has finer white barring not as wide as this bird, tail also seemed shorter than in r-s. From underneath wings are more striated on r-s whereas this bird had whitish flight feathers w/ black tips. Upper parts of wing are spotted while perched and shows a red shoulder on r-s hawk. This bird was even brown on upper parts - wrong flight profile
Swainson's - wrong flight & wing profile - fore wing darker than flight feathers, just opposite on Swainson's

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

- Very limited with Broad-winged - this is the 1st adult I've seen
- limited with Red-shouldered
- much experience w/ Swainson's, Cooper's, & Sharp-shinned

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

Standard guides, Peterson's² Hawks, I would have used Pete Dunn's book but Ella has it!
I used guides as reinforcement rather than a descriptive reference.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Expected in migration in fall. Was late even for expected Spring migration

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

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

Observer: CRAIG L. Kneedy
314 S. 4500 W

Address: West Point, Utah
84015

Signature:



Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Date prepared: 6/18/01

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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West Valley City, Utah 84120