

Unusual Bird Report Form for Christmas Bird Counts

CBC Name (not bird club name): _____ CBC Date: Dec. 5, 2000

Species (include number, age, sex etc. as appropriate): Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus)
1 Juvenile

Observer: Merrill Webb Other observers who saw bird: None (yet)

Description (Describe size, color and pattern above and below, head, bill, tail, wings etc. as needed. Use this space for a drawing if helpful. Include photos if available.):

Size - Smaller than a Red-tailed Hawk, but larger than a crow. Field guides indicate 17" L & 40" W.

Color - Brown head & back. Throat & breast brown, flanks & belly were streaked with brown & kind of white, or off-white. Vent area was white. Tail was black with 4-5 thin white stripes. Wings were mottled with white, but not as distinctly as the field guides show. There wasn't any color (red or rust) on the scapulars or shoulder indicating that it wasn't an adult. There was a translucent pale crescent across wing tips.

Flight - The flight was more rapid & direct than a Red-tail. The translucent crescent was very visible in flight. When it flew straight away it flew accipiter-like with rapid wing beats & then a short glide.

Sounds made, if any:
None

Conditions of observation (Time of day, weather, duration of observation, distance to bird, optics used, etc.):
9:00-10:00 A.M. Clear sky. Fifty to 100 yards distance. used a Discoverer Spotting Scope (Zoom lens) 15-25X & 8X40 Binos.

Behavior and Habitat (What was the bird doing while you watched it? What habitat was it in?):
Trees near water - Open area near Powell Slough (a marshy area) on the east side of Utah Lake. The hawk flew from one tree to another & landed deep in tree branches rather than on top.

Similar Species (What similar species might be in your area in winter? How did you eliminate them from consideration?):
Red Tail juvenile - This bird had distinct tail bands, not thin bands like a Red tail.
Broad-winged Hawk - Tail banding different again, & this hawk was larger than a Broad-winged. Not here during winter either.

I have seen Red-shouldered Hawks five or six times before in this state and am familiar with both the adult & the juvenile. This was definitely a juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk.

juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk.