

16-1984a

(same as  
1-1985)

## UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Common Name: Red-shouldered Hawk Scientific Name: *Buteo lineatus*  
 Date: 28 Dec. 1984 1330 on 12/28  
 8 Jan. 1985 Time: 1215 on 1/8 Length of time observed: 10 mins. both days  
 Number: 1 Age: adult Sex: unknown  
 Location: 2 miles SE of St. George, Washington Co  
 Lat/long: 19 *approx* Elevation: 2900 feet  
 Distance to bird: 40 to 100 feet Light conditions: Generally good  
 Optical equipment: 7 x 35 binocs  
 Weather: partly cloudy, 45°, some rain the previous day  
 Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Similar in shape to a Red-tail, but about 2 or 3 inches shorter and with a proportionally longer tail. The crown, nape, and back were mostly a medium brown mottled with tan. The wings were similar in shape to a Red-tail, but the primaries were more upturned in flight. The flight feathers were a dark brown-gray, crossed ~~light~~ with 2 white bars <sup>on the dorsal surface.</sup> There was a whitish window at the base of the primaries when viewed in flight. The coverts were mostly gray-brown to brown <sup>(dorsal)</sup> and there was a trace of rufous near the base of the upper wing surface (greater coverts) observed in flight but not when perched. The tail was dark gray-brown with 4 or 5 white bands about 1 inch wide. The upper breast was mostly red-orange in color while the lower breast & belly were tan with some red-orange barring. Legs, feet, and cere were yellow. The ventral wing surface was not viewed.

Voice or call notes: not heard

Behavior: Spent most of its time perched on powerpoles or low trees. When it flew, it would drop from the perch toward the ground, fly low over the ground, then sweep up to the next perch — similar to the flight of a Loggerhead Shrike.

Habitat:

Agricultural area of grass fields, a few orchards, & a few homes.

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

The dark wings & tail with the prominent white bands, the windows at base of primaries, & the flight pattern.

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

No other buteo has the distinctive dorsal wing surface pattern. Broad-winged Hawk is vaguely similar when perched, but is much smaller with proportionally shorter wings, & only 2 broad white tail bands.

What experience have you had with this and similar species: I have observed Red-shouldered Hawks previously in the eastern states & in Calif. Broad-winged Hawks in the east, & am very familiar with all western Buteos.

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

none

Significance of record in this area or the state:

2nd lat/long record & 2nd verified state record (specimen or photo)

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

Observer: Steven Hedges

Signature: Steven A Hedges

Address: 884 S. Cedar Knolls W, Cedar City, UT 84720

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Merrill Webb, Mark Bromley, Ella & Richard Sorensen

Date prepared: 1/18/85

Return this form to: Utah Ornithological Society  
C/O Ella Sorensen  
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