

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Common Name: Broad-winged Hawk

Scientific Name: Buteo platypterus

Date: 1 Oct 1988 Time: ~1400 MST

Length of time observed: 8-10 minutes

Number: 1 Age: Adult

Sex: ?

Location: Ut., San Juan Co., Navajo Mnt.

Lat/long: ?

Elevation: 10000+ ft

Distance to bird: 0-1.5 mi. <sup>and</sup> ~6-800 ft overhead

Light conditions: clear, sunny

Optical equipment: 10x40 ~~binoculars~~

Weather: clear, sunny, calm, warm

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

Approached in a direct line from N.E. when 1<sup>st</sup> seen ~~as a red-tailed hawk~~  
I first thought a golden eagle & red tail were approaching together. When the  
"eagle" turned into a red tail the 2<sup>nd</sup> smaller bird went on I DeD until nearly  
overhead & turning. The ~~extensively~~ pale underparts, black & white banded tail,  
black wing tips & trailing edge of wing were all readily visible. A small chunky buteo  
much smaller than the accompanying red tail.

Voice or call notes: none

Behavior: glided from N.E. to our position on mountain & then glided to S.E. off the southern face of the mt ~ 1.5 miles (perhaps more than 2.0 miles) where it began circling. Eventually lost from view.

Habitat:

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

~~smaller size~~ Buteo shape, smaller size than red tail, black & white banded tail (clinched it).  
pale under parts, black ~~tips~~ <sup>tips</sup> & trailing edge of wing.

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

All raptors but buteos eliminated. Small size eliminated most all N.A. buteos.  
~~strong~~ Range & belly pattern eliminated gray hawk. Belly color & tail pattern & lack of wing crescents eliminate red-shodded hawk.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Observed in summer 1988 in Iowa, Missouri.

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

"Hawks in Flight", "Field Guide to the Hawks", especially Hawks in Flight. Trip to Navajo mt was made on off chance of seeing this species! ~~could~~ <sup>might</sup> not have noted the diagnostic black wing tips & black trailing edge of wing w/o being up on N.I.F.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Apparently one of few Utah records. Also apparently 1st S. Utah record. 1st record for Navajo Indian Reservation. Steve H. Suman rpts 30 in <sup>1987</sup> fall migration in Goshute mts, N.E. Nevada so may be more frequent migr. at high elev. than is usually visited by birders.

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

Observer: Chuck LaRue

Signature: *Chuck LaRue*

Address: Box 1802 Kayenta, AZ. 86033

Other observers who independently identified this bird: The following, all of Flagstaff, AZ observed the above listed field marks and all observed the bird w/ binoculars: Bob Lippman, Steve Ganey, Randy Van Haverbek

Date prepared: 14 Oct 1988

Return this form to: Utah Ornithological Society  
C/O Ella Sorensen  
3868 Marsha Drive  
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