

## Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

17  
+ 3 photos  
- 1 sketch

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS: ACCEPT 7-0NEW STATE RECORD

Print this page and then fill out. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species (please include common and scientific names): Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*)

Date(s) of Observation: 17 July 1999

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: male?? Plumage: adult

Exact location: Colorado National Monument, near Independence Monument Overlook

County: Mesa Nearest town: Fruita

Length of observation: 20 minutes

Times of: 1315-1335

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you:

Nick Barber	Matt Norris
Joy Bonelli	Nicole Paprocki
Jamie Frarck	Russ Stevenson
Dana Glennon	Ashley Suarez
Andy Leukering	Adam Wood
Jake Musser	Scott Yanco
Tabitha Nelson	

Other observers who independently saw the bird: ???

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position:

Sky was mostly clear with some scattered clouds.

Optical equipment used:

(by me):

Celestron 8x42 Rangers

(by others):

Swarovski 10x42 SLC III

Swarovski 8x30 SLC III

Leica 8x20

Swift 8x42 Ultralites

Bausch and Lomb 10x42 Elites

Bausch and Lomb 10X50 Legacies

Bushnell 8x42 WA

Pentax 8x40, 7x35 PCF

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 80m-800m

Was bird(s) photographed? yes If so, have you submitted photos? Yes

Who took the photographs:

Adam Wood
136 Stoney Creek Drive
Houston, TX 77024

Scott Yanco
154 Holliston Street
Medway, MA 02053

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:  
soaring above pinyon pine/juniper habitat; tall cliffs/buttes

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification):  
Bird was soaring above pinyon/juniper habitat; it made three stoops at a large butte and flew at it with feet extended, as though diving after a prey item (it did not appear to catch anything during our observation). It also dropped its feet down once on a close pass, allowing us to observe the yellow color of the legs. Its flight was not as wobbly as a Turkey Vulture (TUVU), nor did it "tip" its wings in flight.

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings, and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, etc. that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches, or copy field notes):

At first glance the bird was identified as a TUVU, but a closer look revealed that it was not. It flew with its wings in the characteristic TUVU dihedral, but its wings were more round-tipped than a TUVU and it lacked the distinctive TUVU outer primary "fingers". The tail was longer and more square-tipped than TUVU.

Wing undersides were light and finely barred; the terminal edge of the flight feathers was dark; otherwise, the bird had a dark belly and underside. The tail was black with two white bands; the inner (closest to the body) band was thinner than the outer band and was partially covered by the undertail coverts. Bird had a dark, feathered head, unlike TUVU. Bird had yellow legs

Describe bird's call or song: Did not hear any vocalization.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

Turkey Vulture:

eliminated by feathered head; long, straight tail; dark trailing edge of flight feathers, behavior

Golden Eagle:

eliminated by white bars on tail; underpart coloration was not like GOEA

Common Black Hawk:

eliminated by tail bands (two vs. one); underpart coloration

Dark morph buteo

eliminated by tail and underpart coloration

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have observed this species, along with Mangrove and Great Black-Hawk in Parque Nacional Palo Verde, Costa Rica. I have much experience observing Turkey Vultures, Golden Eagles, and have observed dark morph Swainson's and Red-tailed Hawks.

Three other observers have previously seen Zone-tailed Hawks in Arizona, Costa Rica, and Texas. One other observer has seen Common Black Hawk.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

National Geographic Society. 1999. Field Guide to the Birds of North America, Third edition.

Used to confirm the sighting in the field and to check ZTHA's North American range.

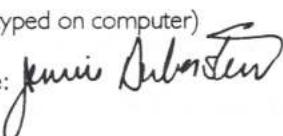
Clark, W.S. and B.K. Wheeler. 1995. Photographic Guide to North American Raptors.

Consulted upon return from the field and during report writing for aging and sexing the bird and eliminating similar species.

This report was written from notes made approximately 20 minutes after the observation (see attached copies).

Date of written report: 17 July 1999 (by hand)/8 August 1999 (typed on computer)

Reporting Observer: Jennie Duberstein

Signature: 

Address:

Home:  
1073 Pegasus Place  
Lafayette, CO 80026  
303-665-7090  
jduby@juno.com

Work:  
Colorado Bird Observatory  
13401 Piccadilly Road  
Brighton, CO 80601  
303-6559-4348  
Jennie.Duberstein@CBObirds.org

Time: 1315-1335

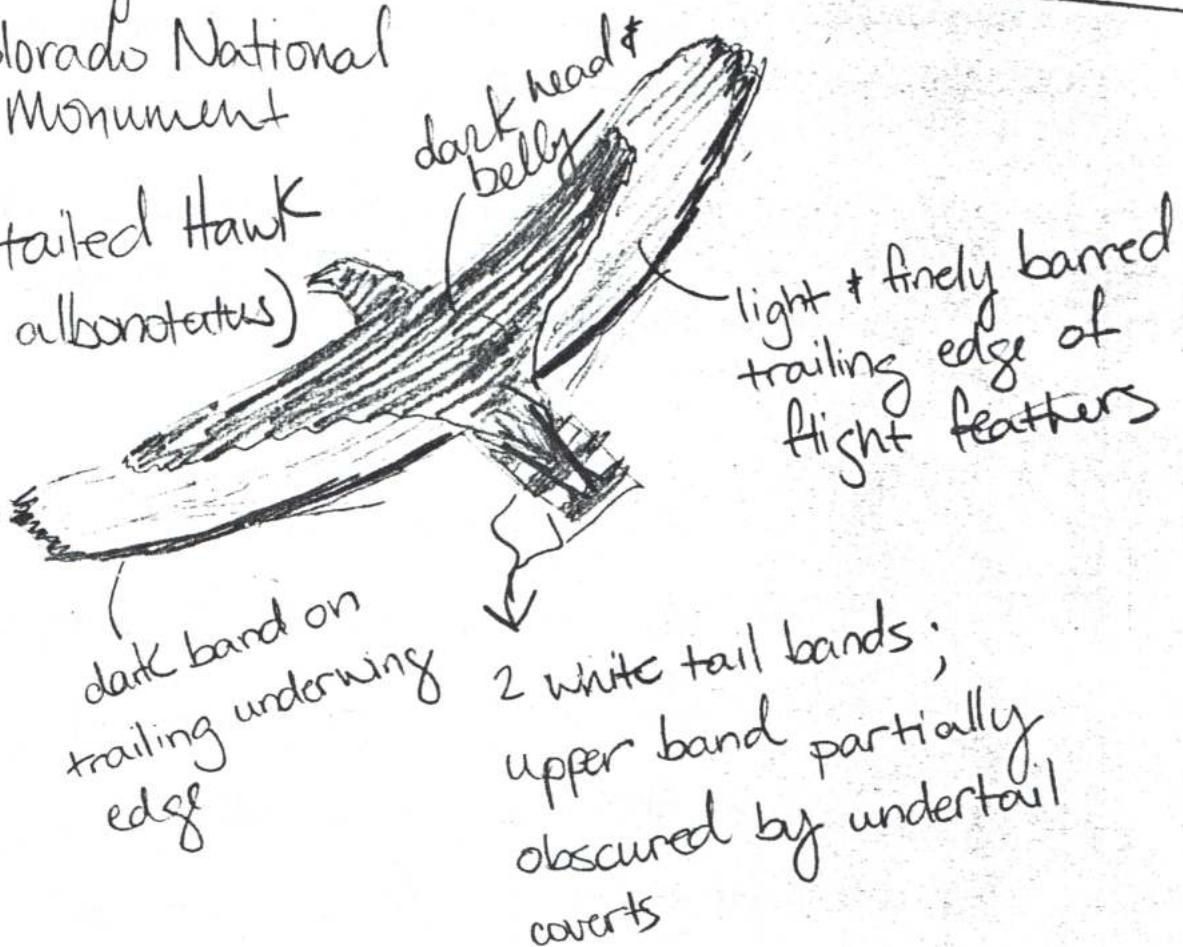
Other possible spp.?:

- TUVU (but tail, dark edge flight feathers, behavior)
- GOEA (but tail, underpart coloration)
- COBL (tail, underparts)
- dark morph RTHA, SINHA, PEH/  
"tail color" tail & underparts

17 July 1999

Colorado National  
Monument

Zone-tailed Hawk  
(*Buteo albonotatus*)



wings in dihedral; soared w/out flapping;

extended legs/talons in flight; three swooped at  
rock

17 July 1999

CO National Monument

ZTHA Notes

Wings in dihedral; trailing edges of flight feathers finely barred; terminal edge of flight feathers dark; dark belly & undersides otherwise; tail longish & straight at end; tail w/ 2 white bands, the 1<sup>st</sup> thinner than the 2<sup>nd</sup> & partially covered by under tail coverts; dark, feathered head; wingtips w/out "fingers" of TVU, rounder tips.

Soaring above P/J habitat; made 3 stoops at a large butte & <sup>dove</sup> flew at it w/ feet extended; extended feet in air once, showing yellow color; not as wobbly as TV in flight; did not do characteristic TV wing flexing.



ZTHA

Colorado Natural Monument

17 July 99

photo: Adam Wood

1999-176



ZTHA  
Co NHI monument  
17 July 99  
photo: Scott Yanco  
1999-176



ZTHA  
CO. NTL. MONUMENT  
17 JULY 99

photo Scott YANCO

1999-176

1999-176

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Jennie Duberstein  
1073 Pegasus Place  
Lafayette, CO 80026

ACCEPT 7-0

Bill Lisowsky  
2919 Silverplume Drive  
Fort Collins, CO 80526

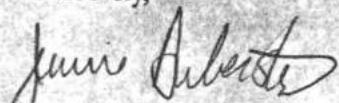
Dear Bill:

Enclosed are two reports for the Zone-tailed Hawk that my campers and I saw this past July. I am the director of *On The Wing*, Colorado Bird Observatory's summer field ornithology camp for 11-18 year olds, and the bird was observed by a group of students ages 14-18 from across the country. One report is mine, and one was written by one of my students.

The pictures didn't turn out very well, as you can see, but I have enclosed the best three. I have quite a few more that I'd be happy to send if you'd like, but I don't know that they'd be all that much help.

Please let me know if I can send you any more information!

Sincerely,



Jennie Duberstein

Rec'd 8/20/99 wpl  
(+1 sketch)  
1999-176

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

Species: Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*)

ACCEPT 7-0

Date of observation: 17 July 1999

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: probably male

Plumage: adult

Exact location: Colorado National Monument, near Independence Monument Overlook

County: Mesa

Nearest town: Grand Junction

Length of observation: twenty minutes

Time of observation: 1315-1335

<u>Other observers:</u>	Joy Bonelli	Matt Norris
	Jennie Duberstein	Nicole Paprocki
	Jamie Frarck	Russ Stevenson
	Dana Glennon	Ashley Suarez
	Andy Leukering	Adam Wood
	Jake Musser	Scott Yanco
	Tabitha Nelson	

Light Conditions: Lighting excellent because of mostly clear sky; position of sun not noted, but bird was never backlit (never appeared as a silhouette).

Optical equipment used: (by me)

Swarovski 10x42 SLC III  
(by others)  
Swarovski 8x30 SLC III  
Leica 8x20  
Bausch & Lomb 10x42 Elites  
Bausch & Lomb 10x50 Legacies  
Celestron 8x42 Rangers  
Swift 8x42 Ultralites  
Bushnell 8x42 WA  
Pentax 8x40  
Pentax 7x35

Distance from bird: At closest, 60m; at farthest, 500m.

Photographed? Yes

If so, have you submitted photos? No

<u>Who took the photographs?</u>	Adam Wood	Scott Yanco
	136 Stoney Creek Dr.	154 Holliston St.
	Houston, TX 77024	Medway, MA 02053

Habitat: Tall cliffs and rocks with much pinyon pine, juniper, and sage. Hawk soared over both tall rocks and steep cliffs.

Behavior: When the bird was first sighted, it was immediately identified by most members of the group as a Turkey Vulture (hereafter, TUVU) because it held its wings in an obvious dihedral and "rocked" in flight. At the time of observation, I

noted that the bird seemed to rock less than a TUVU. Once, when it soared by fairly close, it hung its legs and feet down, displaying their yellow coloration and large talons. Occasionally the bird tucked into a partial dive. Three times, it did a complete dive at a flat rock, apparently attempting to capture prey, although it was not successful during our observation. The bird never "bow-flexed" its wings like a vulture.

Description: Large raptor; resembled TUVU in behavior, coloration, and – to an extent – shape. Wings seemed slightly rounder-tipped; "fingers" effect of primaries not as apparent as TUVU; in soar, wings held with carpal joint angle sharper than TUVU. Tail longer than that of vulture, with fairly squarish, straight-cut tip.

First characteristic inconsistent with TUVU noted was tail pattern. After identifying it as vulture, I took a second look, and, as the bird banked in a turn, the upperside of the tail was visible. The tail was black with two white bands; the outer (subterminal) band was broader than the inner band, which (from below) was partially concealed by the undertail coverts. The broad bands age the bird as an adult; one inner band indicates that the individual was probably a male.

Head, body, and upperwings black (lacking brown tones of TUVU); head completely feathered. Undersides of primaries and secondaries finely barred blackish and gray; from a distance, they appeared pale like TUVU's, but lacked the shiny, silvery effect when viewed more closely. Primaries and secondaries also had broad black tips, creating a broad black trailing edge to the wing. On each wing, two primaries seemed were more translucent (possibly older?) than the rest; the exact feathers were not noted, but on the right wing these feathers were adjacent, while on the left they were separated by one or two other primaries. Wing linings black; greater underprimary coverts showed indistinct pale bases, somewhat reminiscent of Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*).

Legs long; legs and feet bright yellow, especially visible when bird hung talons in flight. Cere also yellow.

Call or song: No vocalizations heard.

Similar species: Turkey Vulture was eliminated by white tail bands, feathered head, barred undersides of primaries and secondaries, black trailing edge of wing, and yellow legs and cere.

Common Black Hawk would be shaped differently (shorter tail, broader wings), show one broad tail band, and soar on flat wings.

Golden Eagle would appear much larger; also, would not show the tail pattern of the hawk we observed, and those showing such obvious white on the tail would have patches of white on the underwings.

No dark-morph buteos would show the tail pattern present on the bird we observed, except possibly dark-morph Broad-winged Hawk, which, besides being an unlikely visitor to western Colorado, would be much smaller and soar on flat wings.

Prior experience: I have observed Zone-tailed Hawk in southeast Arizona; best studies were in Cave Creek Canyon in July 1997. I have seen countless Turkey

Vultures and many Golden Eagles; both of these species were observed on the day of observation. The only dark-morph buteos I have observed are Swainson's and Rough-legged Hawks.

Books consulted:

*National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America.* Third edition. 1999.

Only book consulted during observation; checked range map after bird was identified.

Clark, William S. and Brian K. Wheeler. *Hawks.* 1987.

Clark, William S. and Brian K. Wheeler. *A Photographic Guide to North American Raptors.* 1995.

Both of these were consulted while writing this report to age and sex the hawk and for information on separating similar species.

Holt, Harold. *A Birder's Guide to Colorado.* 1997.

Consulted at Colorado National Monument Bookstore to check distribution of Zone-tailed Hawk in Colorado. Unable to find any mention of the species.

This report is from notes made approximately ten minutes after the last observation. A copy of these notes is attached to this report.

Date of written report: 11 August 1999

Reporting observer: Nick Barber

Signature: *Nicholas D. Barber*

Address: 5882 Cantwell Dr.  
Mayfield Hts., OH 44124

(written 1:45 - 2:00 p.m.)

(Notes xeroxed;  
traced over w/  
pencil so easier  
to read. - NB.)

Zone-tailed Hawk

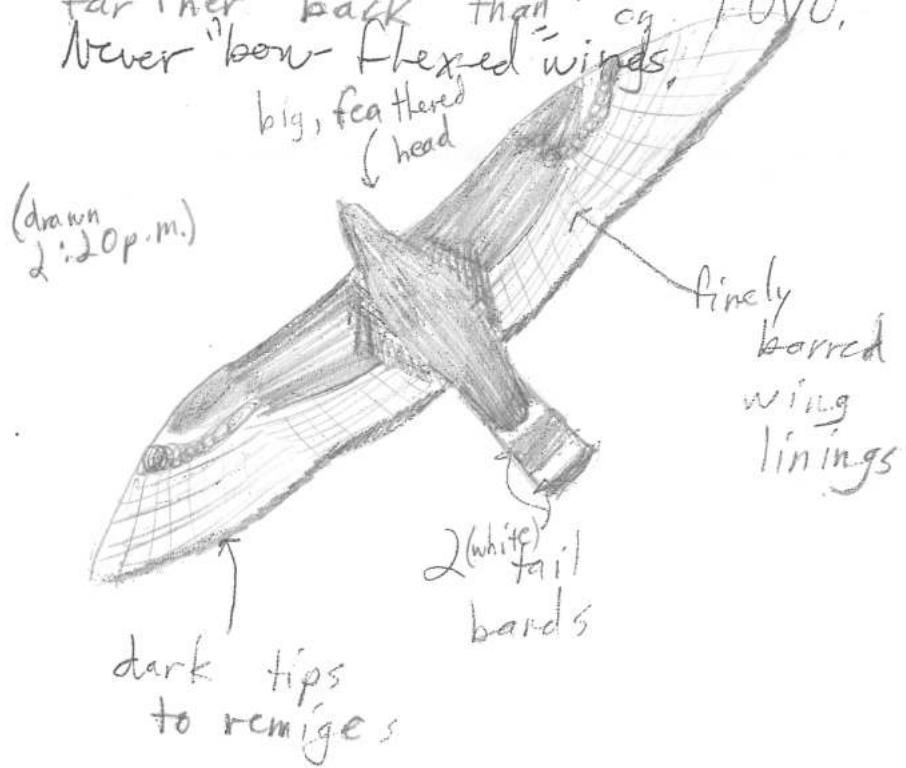
CO Nat'l Monument near Ind. Mtn. Dm.  
7/17/99 - 1:15 pm 1:35 p.m. <sup>clock</sup>

Looked like a TUVU. Head  
larger b/c feathered. Plumage mostly  
black. Remiges barred dark &  
gray w/ broad black terminal band.  
Tail black w/ 2 white bands;  
outer band broader; inner band  
narrower & from below, partially  
covered by undertail coverts. Legs &  
feet yellow; cere yellow. "Fingers"  
of TUVU not visible, 2 <sup>outer</sup> pp on each  
wing translucent (old?); on right  
wing, these pp were adjacent; not  
adjacent (separated by 1-2 pp) on  
left wing.

Soared w/ dihedral. Wing linings  
black; greater underprimary coverts  
w/ pale bases, making a pale crescent  
(like Pom Jaeger). Rocked in flight,  
but ~~probably~~ not as much as TUVU.  
Occasionally tucked into a partial dive.  
3 times, appeared to be trying to capture  
prey on a flat rock. Once, hung talons  
unlike any TUVU. Above, blacker (not as  
brown) than TUVU.

Shape (not well-noted)

Wings possibly rounder-tipped;  
sharper carpal joint than TUUV?  
Tail ~~longer~~, <sup>straighter</sup> seemed set  
farther back than e.g. TUUV.  
Never "bow-flexed" wings.



## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

Results : \_\_\_\_\_

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: ZONED-TAILED HAWK BUTEO ALBONOTATUS  
(Common Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s) of occurrence: 17 JUL 1999Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: ADULTExact location: RIM ROCK DRIVE, COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENTCounty: MESA Nearest town: FRUITA Elevation: 5,700 FTLength of observation: 20 min. Times(s) of observation: AROUND 10 AM.Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: CBO's "ON THE WING" 99 Mountains to MesasOther observers who independently saw the bird(s): UNKNOWNLight conditions [quality; direction relative to bird(s); position]: LOOKING TO EAST <sup>WEST</sup> IN THE MORNINGOptical equipment used: 7x BINS & SPOTTING SCOPE SUN AGAINST BACK GOOD BIRDING LIGHTDistance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 100 + YARDSWas the bird(s) photographed: YES If so, have you submitted photos? NOWho took the photographs? SCOTT YANCO AND ADAM WOODDescribe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:  
AERIAL OVER PIÑON - JUNIPER WOODLANDDescribe the behavior of the bird(s) (flying/feeding/habits/behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification):  
SOARING LAZILYDescribe the bird(s) in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird(s) in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings, and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, etc. That were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches, or copy of field notes): BLACK HEAD, BROAD WINGS, UNDERSIDE OF WINGS HAD DARK TRAILING EDGES, THE UNDERSIDES WERE ALSO COVERED IN BLACK & WHITE MARKINGS; BANDS ON THE UNDERSIDE OF TAIL.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

TUWU: SMALLER THAN TUWU, BANDED TAIL, A LOT OF WHITE AND BLACK MARKS ON UNDERSIDE OF WINGS, DARK TRAILING EDGES ON WINGS

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

NONEList books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation):  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICS FIELD GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS (THIRD EDITION)  
HAWKS BY PETERSON FIELD GUIDE SERIESThis report was made from notes made during X or after \_\_\_\_\_ observation, or later from memory \_\_\_\_\_.Date of written report: 17 OCT 1999 Reporting observer: MATT L. NORRIS Signature: Matty NorrisReporting observer's address: 1154 S. VANCOUVER WAY LAKEWOOD, CO 80228

Send report to: Bill Lisowsky, 2919 Silverplume Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80526

Subj: Records  
Date: 8/16/99 11:19:00 AM Mountain Daylight Time  
From: BKWHEELER@compuserve.com (BRIAN K. WHEELER)  
Sender: BKWHEELER@compuserve.com (BRIAN K. WHEELER)  
To: NCSWPL@aol.com (Bill Lisowsky)

Bill,

Thanks for message on records update. Yes, if you find out more on the Zone-tailed and other records, please let me know. They just had the 3rd Zone-tailed record for Utah last week in Wash. Co. With them breeding so close to Colorado I would think that they would stray up here--especially one-year-old birds.

Brian

Headers

Return-Path: <BKWHEELER@compuserve.com>  
Received: from aol.com (rly-za03.mail.aol.com [172.31.36.99]) by air-za03.mail.aol.com (v60.25) with ESMTP; Mon, 16 Aug 1999 13:18:59 -0400  
Received: from hpamgaab.compuserve.com (ah-img-2.compuserve.com [149.174.217.153]) by rly-za03.mx.aol.com (v60.25) with ESMTP; Mon, 16 Aug 1999 13:18:57 -0400  
Received: (from mailgate@localhost)  
by hpamgaab.compuserve.com (8.8.8/8.8.8/HP-1.8) id NAA05072  
for NCSWPL@aol.com; Mon, 16 Aug 1999 13:18:56 -0400 (EDT)  
Date: Mon, 16 Aug 1999 13:16:51 -0400  
From: "BRIAN K. WHEELER" <BKWHEELER@compuserve.com>  
Subject: Records  
Sender: "BRIAN K. WHEELER" <BKWHEELER@compuserve.com>  
To: Bill Lisowsky <NCSWPL@aol.com>  
Message-ID: <199908161318\_MC2-8133-24C4@compuserve.com>  
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