

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD 

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

Species: **Harris' Hawk**  
(Vernacular Name)

**Parabuteo unicinctus**  
(Scientific Name)

Date(s): **December 19, 1994**

Number of birds seen: **1**

Sex:

Plumage: **Adult**

Locality: **along Cache la Poudre River, at Lee Martinez Park**

Elevation: **5200'**

Nearest town: **Ft. Collins**

County: **Larimer**

Time(s) observed: **10:15am-11:15am**

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): **45 min.**

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers): **John F. Barber Jr., 1700 Clearview Ct, Ft Collins, 484-9791; Tom Barber (same address)**

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers): **unknown**

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light): **sun was behind observers for longest period of time. Was also viewed from behind, looking into sun.**

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): **10X binoculars; 80X Questar scope**

Distance, and how measured: **40 feet at closest; estimated**

If photographed, type of equipment and film: **No photos**

Who else photographed the bird? **Unknown**

Describe the birds behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): **First seen perched about 25 feet above ground, along woodlot edge near river. Bird eventually flew 150 yds to perch in top of snag, then flew again and out of sight.**

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field:

**Buteo shape and size; Large dark raptor; Black belly and throat; Yellow cere;**

*Description (continued):*

Rufous patches/feathering in wing; One wing feather was slightly askew. Beak was large and unscarred; Legs were yellow and long (showed no scars, damage, bands or jessies), leggings were rufous; Longish tail, white near tip (slightly worn at ends), dark above tip ending at whitish rump area; Tail feathers were rough, showing significant wear; one secondary feather was askew on wing; Beak itself was dark; Head and back were dark; Upright posture enhanced long legged look;

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):  
**None heard**

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Riparian area, in tall deciduous tree adjacent to edge of wood lot bordering open field, approximately 25 feet off ground.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

**Harlan's Hawk -- red leggings, black and white tail pattern, rufous in wing-**

**Rough-legged Hawk** -- red leggings, long yellow legs, tail pattern, rufous in wings

**Ferruginous Hawk** -- long yellow legs, tail pattern, rufous in wings

Red-shouldered Hawk — long yellow legs, tail pattern, Red-shouldered Hawk — looked nothing like this one.

Red shouldered Hawk --looked nothing like this species, dark underneath and back, long yellow legs, tail was patterned but not striped

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

**We have seen this and similarly appearing species many, many times**

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:  
**Did reference check in field to be sure all field marks had been noted and no other possible species had been overlooked**

- a) at time of observation: **National Geographic**
- b) after observation: **Western Peterson, National Geographic, Peterson Hawks**

This report was written from reports made during after observation **XX** from memory

Date and time report was written: December 24, 1994

Reporting observer: Bill Lisowsky

Signature:

Address: 2919 Silverplume Drive, Ft. Collins, CO 80526

Return to:

Return to:  
**Bill Prather**

C.F.O. Official Records Committee

13810 WCR 1

Longmont, Colorado 80504