

Note - This is one side of Kate 10-07-1983  
Kittlitz's Report - The copy I have is bad - Bill P

CFO-ORC FILE # 10-80-83

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

A

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

Species: PLATE HAWK | PyroGALLUS AUTHRACINUS  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s): JUNE 20, 1980

Number of birds seen: One Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Plumage: \_\_\_\_\_

Locality: CHATFIELD Dm Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest town: CHATFIELD County: \_\_\_\_\_

Time(s) observed: 9:30 AM

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.) ADY 1 MINUTE

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

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

ROBERT ANDREWS 756-5553

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):  
sun in back

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Binoculars - 7X35

Distance, and how measured: \_\_\_\_\_

If photographed, type of equipment and film: \_\_\_\_\_

Who else photographed the bird? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

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:

IT WAS THE SAME GENERAL SIZE AS A SWAINSON'S  
(IT WAS FLYING NEAR). THE WINGS AND TAIL  
WERE CONSIDERABLY BROADER. IT HAS A DARK BODY AND  
DARK WING LININGS, LIGHT FLIGHT FEATHERS, TIPPED  
DARK LIGHT TAIL BAND IN MIDDLE

Description, (continued)

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

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

GRASS AND WATER

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

GEN. SP. 3.26 1100 REPORTS F. 1400. 1100 TIME

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

none

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation:

WILDLIFE OF NORTH AMERICA  
BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

b) after observation:

This report was written from notes made during X, after        observation; from memory       .

Date and time report was written: TUE 21 1970

Reporting observer: Karen K. Johnson Signature: Karen K. Johnson

Address: 1200 16th Street, Denver, CO 80224

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below.

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, COLORADO 80205

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD 

A

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

Species: Common Black Hawk | Buteogallus anthracinus  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 21 June 1980Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: AdultLocality: Chatfield State Recreation AreaElevation: 5200'Nearest town: LittletonCounty: DouglasTime(s) observed: 0715Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.) ~ 7 sec.

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

None

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

Kate KittlemanLight conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):  
sun shining directly on the bird from directly behind me.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10 x 50 binocularsDistance, and how measured: estimated 100'

If photographed, type of equipment and film: \_\_\_\_\_

Who else photographed the bird? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Sitting on a fallen log over Plum Creek, on a heavily wooded stretch. Almost as soon as I came out into the open and saw it, it flew directly away from me. Two-hour search failed to relocate the bird. When sitting, the bird was sideways so both the underparts and upperparts were visible to me.

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:

Medium-sized buteo; body all black (not dark brown); black tail with white, wide band across the middle and a thin white terminal band; long, dangling bright yellow legs.drawing of tail pattern  
made soon after sighting

Description, (continued)

Elimination of similar species:

Red-tailed - dark phase dark brown, not black; ~~tail~~ tail would be red or brown barred with black.

Broad-winged - rare dark phase may be black, but tail with several bands; smaller Swainson's - dark phase dark brown, not black; tail pale with brown barring.

Zone-tailed - series of black and white bars on tail, not just one.

Rough-legged - dark phase not black; tail would be more extensively white on base, although variants could show a single white band across middle; wrong time of year; tarsi feathered (tarsi on the observed bird clearly were bare).

Bay-winged (Harris') - chestnut shoulders, rump and base of tail white

Common Black Hawk has distinctly longer legs than other hawks, although most of the species above do have yellow legs and feet  
(See also additional, attached note)

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:

Fairly thick and extensive plains riparian woodland (predominately Plains Cottonwood  
Populus sargentii)

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

see above

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

Considerable experience with dark-phase Red-tailed, ~~Red-tailed~~ Rough-legged Hawks in Colorado; have seen occasional dark-phase Swainson's in Colorado. Have seen several Zone-tailed Hawks in Arizona and Bay-winged in Texas. Small numbers of Broad-winged (incl. 1 dark-phase) in Colorado. Have seen many Common Black Hawks in Mexico and Venezuela.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: standard field guides

b) after observation: Birds of Prey of the World (Grossman and Homlet)

This report was written from notes made during X, after        observation; from memory       .

Date and time report was written: 25 October 1980

Reporting observer: Robert Andrews Signature: Robert Andrews

Address: 3260 W. 14th Ave., #144, Denver, Colorado 80204

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Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, COLORADO 80205

COMMON BLACK HAWK  
21 June 1980  
ROBERT ANDREWS

Additional comments:

After my sighting and report to the DFO Rare Bird Alert, I received a call from Kate Kittleman, who provided the following information. On 20 June 1980, she observed a hawk at Chatfield (~1 mi. west of where my observation on 21 June was made). The bird, which was observed in flight, was identified by her as a Black Hawk, but she concluded she was mistaken due to its range. She described the hawk as a black bird, with a single white band across the middle of the tail, and all dark underwings with a white patch at the ~~per~~ base of the primaries. If this bird was the same individual as I saw, then her description of the underwing pattern (which I was unable to see) provides an additional piece of evidence which I believe supports my identification. This underwing pattern is distinctive of the Black Hawk. The Zone-tailed Hawk<sup>1</sup> has dark wing linings and pale flight feathers (as do most dark-phase hawks); the dark-phase Swainson's has an all dark underwing but that species has already been eliminated by tail pattern.