

191-01-1990

Responsible Law. ... by Steve Sautner

1. I learned of this sighting either Wednesday or Thursday, and days afterwards from Marie Lou.
2. This description was sent to me at my residence after my call to Scott on Thursday or Friday. I don't know how much of this represents what happened in the field and how much was added later.
3. Jack Huxley, one of the local fishermen, was told by some friend of mine in Pennsylvania that Fort Lupton had a. If the two merged, he would surely certainly lead to ... of the case I called him and brother ... as he ever did.
4. I don't know what about Scott's description as a suspect except that he had spent some time at ... he ... at least the last 10 years.
5. Scott also reported to me in the same conversation that he had found a rough-legged hawk ... and ... I have been up since ... conversation. He gave a good description of this ... of course ... entirely ... reporting rough-legged hawk?

191-01-1990

Scott A. Weidner  
P.O. Box 75  
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Subject: Sighting of Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

Date: Tuesday, September 18, 1990

Time: 2:12 P.M.

Location: Dauphin County, Pennsylvania; ~3/10 miles south of route 22  
along route 743; cornfields and tree-lines

Weather: Sunny with high cirrus and cirrocumulus clouds, winds out of NW,  
temperature in high 60's

Description of bird and sighting: The bird was first seen on the east side of route 743 gliding in a westward direction ~100-150 high over a cornfield. I stopped to take a close look because with the unaided eye 2 characteristics were immediately obvious (1) the bird was very large and (2) the bird appeared to be uniformly light underneath. When I put the glasses on the bird to look for field identification marks I observed the following: (1) irregular dark mottling in the area of the underwing coverts (2) a very distinct V-shape formed by the rufous colored legs (clearly visible with the naked eye as well) (3) a clear white tail with no banding at all and (4) the wings were very long and appeared to be relatively narrow for a buteo. At the same time I was taking note of what I could see I was noting the characteristics that I was not able to pick up (1) carpal patches or broad tail band characteristic of a Rough-legged hawk (2) no belly band or tail banding characteristic of a Red-tailed hawk.

As the bird passed from the east side of Rte. 743, it passed almost directly over head and then approximately 50 yards past the highway it began to kite in a fashion similar to a Red-tailed hawk. It then began to once again glide low over the cornfield and past a tree line at which point I lost all visual contact. The total observation time with binoculars was approximately 3.5 minutes.

I immediately looked to my field guide (Hawks, Clark and Wheeler, 1987) and checked my observations against the light-morph Rough-legged and Red-tailed hawks and then the Ferruginous hawk. From the distinct lack of field markings to indentify Rough-legged and Red-tailed hawks of any type (morph or age) as well as the distinctly clear white tail and dark-V formed by the legs, my initial conclusion was an adult Ferruginous Hawk. As I drove home and all

191-01-1990

that evening I kept going over what I saw in my head and checking it against the various buteos in different bird guides. Each time I came to the same conclusion. The next day I described the bird to a professor at Millersville University and he came to the same tentative conclusion. I then described the bird to Morris Cox and he too came to the same conclusion. Although I myself have never before seen a Ferruginous Hawk, based on my observations and the descriptive information I have available I see no other conclusion that I could come to.

Personal Data...Scott A. Weidner:

- M.S. Biology with emphasis in ichthyology, freshwater biology and field biology
- Teacher, Milton S. Hershey School; Environmental Science, Ecology, Earth Science
- Have been more than a casual observer of raptors since 1974

Sincerely,



Scott A. Weidner

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: **Ferruginous Hawk**

Date of Sighting: **September 18, 1990**

Observer(s): **Scott A. Weidner**

Date of Submission: **1990 *Douphin***

Submitted by: **Steve Santner**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas				X			
F. Haas							X
R. Leberman ?							
G. McWilliams				X			
S. Santner				X			
P. Schwalbe				X			
TOTALS				X			
DECISION			1	4			1

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*B. Haas*

Date:

*3-24-91*