

Subject: Ferruginous Hawk sighting.

Date: Tue, 9 Jul 2002 12:46:50 -0400

From: "sabo, joseph" <josephs@AUBERLE.ORG>

To: "nickpul@bellatlantic.net" <nickpul@bellatlantic.net>

191-01-2002

Nick, I wanted to submit this sighting to the PA Ornithological Records Committee before the fall migration begins.

Location: Asbury Hill, a little south of Rt. 20 and Asbury Hill in Eire, PA. (very close to Asbury Nature Center). I watch the spring hawk migration here when the flight line moves inland.

On, Sunday, the 19th of May, I viewed a Ferruginous Hawk moving through. The winds were bad, from the north. Earlier, a Kestrel migrated through and later, a Buteo, probably a Broad-Winged Hawk, moved through farther inland.

At about noon, close to some distant local Red-Tailed Hawks appears a large circling Buteo, with a big dihedral, a rufous tail with a pink cast and very white below. He's pretty far out and I see that he has a translucent patch near the wing-tip. This mark appeared crescent shaped, but was somehow different from a Red-Shouldered Hawk. (At this time I didn't know that Ferruginous Hawks have a wing patch like an immature dark phased Rough-Legged Hawk). As he begins to come through, he flaps and glides like a Golden Eagle, but he is white underneath with very long wings. He is in a very long glide and his long wings make an impression. I'm studying his marks well because it begins to click with me that this raptor with the rufous tail and looking like an eagle may be a Ferruginous Hawk which I have never seen. He has commas but no patagial marks and no belly band. As he glides overhead, looking like an eagle, I see he has streaks on his belly and blotches on his wings (kind of a patagial blotch) and he appears dark at the end of the body, his undertail is white and then he is gone; I lost him in the scope as he passed overhead and couldn't find him with the binos (very blue sky). The streaks and blotches on the underside as he approached contrasted markedly with this raptors' very bright white underside at a distance. As I stated before, I hav'nt seen many Ferruginous Hawks but I'm happy with the field marks I did see. After studying my field guides, I wish I knew to look for a large head and if he was an adult with rufous legs forming a V. The streaks and blotches looked dark, the field guides tell me they were probably rufous.

Nick, I want to tell you a few things about my hawkwatching. I spend a lot of time in the fall at the Allegheny Front and Waggoner's Gap watches. In the spring I'm at the Allegheny Front, Eire, Braddock Bay and various places along Tussey Mountain. I just want to let you know that this raptor was quite impressive. He was not one of our usual migrants.

Thank You,
Joe Sabo
4128 Willow St.
Pgh., PA 15201

(412)

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

Date of Sighting: 19 May 2002 to 19 May 2002

Location: ASBURY HILL

County: ERIE

Observer(s): Joe Sabo

Date of Submission: 2002

Submitted by: Joe Sabo

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

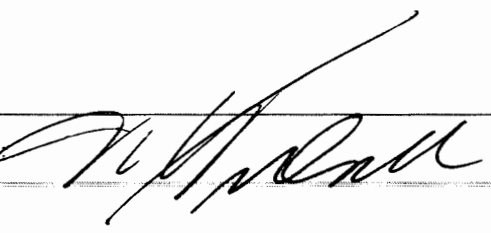
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Recording: No			Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead					X			
D. Heathcote				X				
P. Hess					X			
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer				X				
R. Leberman				X				
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS			1	4	2			
DECISION				X				

Comments: 1/6

Signature (Secretary)



Date: 1/18/03