

Broad-winged Hawk  
2 Jan 1988  
Dubuque, Dubuque Co., IA  
\*John Carl Miller  
IBL 58:48, 75

Record Number: 87-27  
Classification: NA

## DOCUMENTATION

John Carl Miller

## REFERENCE

Christmas Bird Count: IBL 58:48

Records Committee: IBL 58:75

VOTE: 1-III, 1-IV, 3-V, 2-VI

VI, Size of kingfisher doesn't fit well with this species. This particular format of documenting definitely interferes with writing a good description. Other similar species not considered and not at all eliminated. 2 birds on previous CBC mentioned not very likely either.

V, The only significant field mark--the only one I can judge--is the banded tail. Why does the observer include Cooper's Hawk in the differential rather than Red-shouldered Hawk? Broad-winged is considerably bigger than Kingfisher (16 vs 13 inches long and wing much bigger). I'm not sure I'd trust ID of Broad-winged Hawk at this date if I had seen it myself.

V, Size comparison with Kingfisher seems odd. The description as given does not exclude the possibility of this bird being a Red-shouldered Hawk, a much more likely species at this time of year. Lighting could have made back look darker than it was. Size and number of bands on tail were not described.

VI, Considering the likelihood of a Broad-wing in Ia at this date, it is even more mind-boggling to note there were two there the last winter! While this was likely an imm. male red-tail, the kingfisher size might suggest sharp-shinned hawk, merlin, or Cooper's hawk. None of these adequately eliminated in the documentation.

V, Very difficult to judge. Description sounds OK, but also for Cooper's or even Sharp-shin ("kingfisher size"). I voted V because (1) tail length only mark used to differentiate from Cooper's--subjective, as is "wide tail"; (2) extreme rarity in winter n. of Fla.; (3) two records last year; (4) no mention of number of tail bands (Cooper's/Sharp-shin 4, Broadwing 2-3); (5) description somewhat bookish and too sketchy for such an important record; (6) paucity of discussion as to why bird was not the far more likely accipiters.

IV, Mature Broad-wing isn't all light below. Broadwing could be about length of Kingfisher. Not much evidence provided. Mild fall; Broadwing certainly could be here.

SUPPORTING DETAILS: UNCOMMON OR RARE SPECIES AND/OR SPECIES IN HIGH NUMBERS

CBC name Dubuque, IA CBC date Jan 2, 88 compiler John Carl Miller

Observer writing this account and date John Carl Miller Jan 9, 1988 (also Leta Miller)

SPECIES Broad-winged Hawk NUMBER, AGE, SEX 1 only, mature

Distance from bird(s) 50 ft. Relative size of bird about same as Kingfisher

HEAD & NECK (Describe forehead, crown, auricular, malar region, median line, etc.)  
solid color

EYE & LORES (Describe supercilium, ring, stripe, color, etc.)  
no special mark;

UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES \_\_\_\_\_

LEGS & FEET \_\_\_\_\_

UPPERPARTS (Describe nape, back, rump, upper tail coverts, etc.)  
Entire hawk appeared light from the under side, with a short wide banded tail and the tips of the primary wing feathers were very dark.

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UNDERPARTS (Describe throat, belly, side, flanks, crissum, etc.)  
When perched, the back was very dark and a solid brown in color. There appeared to be bands on the tail.

RECTRICES (Describe inner, middle, outer tail feathers, color pattern, shape, etc.)  
The tail was wide and banded.

WING (Describe color, length, shape, linings, bars, coverts, leading and trailing edges, etc.) Light with the tips of the primary feathers being dark.

VOCALIZATION none

BEHAVIOR Flew from a woodland perch to a perch on the end of a branch at the edge of a clearing. We watched for several minutes until it flew and used the wind currents to gain altitude to fly to the next hillside.

Date of observation 1-2-88 Time 11:00 a Weather cold Sky cover clear

Duration of observation 5-7 min Bird - Sun orientation no interference

Exact location along the Heritage Trail near Sundown Ski area

Habitat Woodland with fields Other observers Leta Miller

Optical equipment 8x20 Zeiss & 8x26 Bushnell

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Two were sighted in last year's count. The long tail of a Cooper's Hawk was not present.

AN ACCOMPANYING SKETCH OR PHOTOGRAPH CAN BE AN EXCELLENT FURTHER DOCUMENTATION