

Broad-winged Hawk: Confirmation of Nesting
on the Mississippi Coast

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On 28 June 1986, while in Logtown, Hancock County, Mississippi, Toups and Dalton King noted Broad-winged Hawks (Buteo platypterus) calling persistently.

We visited the site on 30 June and observed a very recently fledged Broad-winged Hawk in a tree. We searched the area and found a Broad-winged Hawk nest, in the fork of a pine at a height of about 15 m. The nest was a rough oblong, about 0.8 m by 0.5 m and composed of twigs. The nest tree was about 20 m tall with a diameter at breast height of about 0.3 m.

We returned to the site on 7 July, when Hodges photographed the nest. Both adults were in the area, and a fledgling was observed as it hung upside-down in a small pine near the nest. Apparently uninjured, it flew into woods when approached.

Although the Broad-winged Hawk has been seen regularly in small numbers in the coastal counties in summer, only an occasional observation of a juvenile bird suggested local breeding. The photographs, on file at the Department of Biological Sciences, Mississippi State University, now document breeding of the Broad-winged Hawk in Hancock County, Mississippi.