## BROAD-WINGED HAWKS NESTING IN NORTHWESTERN OHIO

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On May 1, 1981, I found a nest of this species (<u>Buteo platypterus</u>) in Oak Openings Park, Lucas County. A hawk was brooding on its nest; the mate was in a tree nearby. The nest was near Evergreen Lake, and up about 50-55 ft. in a black oak and within a few feet of a horse trail. It was situated in dry woods of black and white oaks, with an understory of sassafras and a scattering of red maples and with a ground cover of bracken and blueberry bushes.

Oak Openings Metro Park is a sandy area of nearly 3700 acres covered principally with various oaks and pine plantations. Red-shouldered hawks (Buteo lineatus) were once common breeding birds in the park, but now have been largely replaced by broad-wings. The first nest reported for the park was in the early 1970s. Family groups have been observed during the nesting season since then, but no nests of broad-wings were found until this year.

On June 1, an adult was brooding on the nest. On the 11th, no young were seen, but on June 17, an adult was there and one small young was observed stretching its wings above the rim of the nest. I was sitting on the ground within full view, when an adult came to the nest, and immediately dove straight at me through the trees above my head. The bird uttered its plaintive whistle as long as I remained nearby. On July 17, the nest was empty.

On June 17, I found a second nest containing two small young about 30 feet up in an oak near the edge of upland woods. A large swamp woods was adjacent to the nest site. Coming back through the woods, I flushed one of the pair from the ground near the nest. Was it hunting insects? This nest was about a mile and one half north of the first one. On July 17, the young were fully fledged. One was on the nest, the other on a limb above; they both flew as I approached them.

Hicks (1935) lists only Williams County as breeding range for the broad-wing in northwestern Ohio. He found nesting records for ten counties of southeastern and seven northeastern counties. Dawson (1903) lists the hawk even then as "not common summer resident."

Bent (1937) quotes Frank L. Burnes (1911) as to nesting habitat. "In Pennsylvania it haunts the wild rocky wooded ravines above the small streams and close to small ponds and swamps. While it is not unknown to the large grove, it loves the continuous woods over which it can pass undisturbed and unseen from one feeding ground to another; shunning the cultivated area altogether or traversing it only to visit some nearby swamp or pond."

## Literature Cited

Bent, Arthur Cleveland, 1937. Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey.

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Dawson, L. William, 1903. The Birds of Ohio. Columbus, pp. 409.

Hicks, E. Lawrence, 1935. Distribution of The Breeding Birds of

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