

NOTES

A HARRIS' HAWK IN UTAH

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The distribution of the Harris' Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) in the United States is limited to the southern regions of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, with occasional records as far north and east as Ohio and Louisiana (AOU Check-list, 1957). With the exception of three sightings in the Colorado River Valley in the southernmost part of Nevada (Linsdale, Condor 53:228-249, 1951; Johnson, Condor 58:449-452, 1956; Lawson, West. Birds 8:73-90, 1977), and one sighting in southwestern Utah (Behle and Perry, Utah birds, Utah Mus. Nat. Hist., Salt Lake City, 1975:14), the Harris' Hawk has not been reported north of the western part of its range. Herein is reported a second sighting of a Harris' Hawk in southern Utah.

Martin Bray, Gordon Hildebrandt and I independently identified an adult Harris' Hawk on five occasions between 1 August and 9 September 1978 in the Henry Mountains, Garfield County, Utah, 35 km south of Hanksville. Field marks included broad, rounded wings, a chunky body and a relatively long tail. The hawk was chocolate brown throughout except for red-brown patches at the shoulders and on the wing linings. Also, the proximal half of the tail was white, as was a narrow band at the tip of the tail. Once I viewed the bird through 7 power binoculars at less than 15 m and noticed a very faint hint of banding on the proximal undersurface of the tail.

All sightings were within a 500 ha area on the southwest slope of Mount Ellen, near the summit; elevations ranged from 2770 m to 3075 m. The hawk usually soared and flapped over brushy slopes within 10 m of the ground and perched frequently on shrubs or the ground. Vegetation was characterized by sagebrush (*Artemisia* sp.), Gambel Oak (*Quercus gambelii*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* sp.), other low growing shrubs, and grasses.

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[The Harris' Hawk is commonly used for falconry, hence the possibility that this bird had escaped from captivity cannot be ruled out entirely. However, no jesses or other evidence of captivity was noted.—Ed.]