

**Ornithological Study –**

**"Mystery Hawk at my Bird Bath"**

**Sue Killeen**

This past spring I had a very cooperative hawk visit me and spent several minutes in my birdbath.

It was not shy and let me take several photos of him. I did not see it fly as it just hopped into the tree above soaking wet and disappeared into the leaves.

It did not seem to bother some birds in a feeder about 30 feet away.

I live in a very wooded area.

My question at the time was: What was it???



It seemed to want to watch us to make sure we were not a threat.

Markings on breast are not clear distinct vertical but a reddish brown bib to the belly.



So I can eliminate an immature bird like these  
Cooper's and Sharpshin



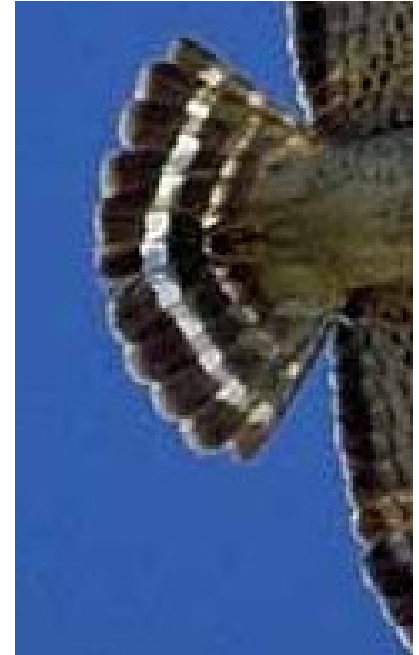
Note also the eyes are yellow not brown  
and the cere is not yellow more clues

Can I get him to turn around?? Maybe...



Not a Red-shouldered and since belly band is wrong not a Red-tailed

Be patient and see if we can get a good look at that tail

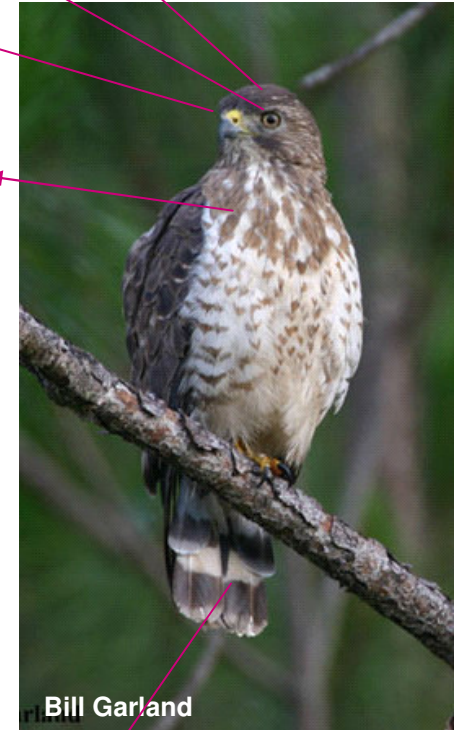
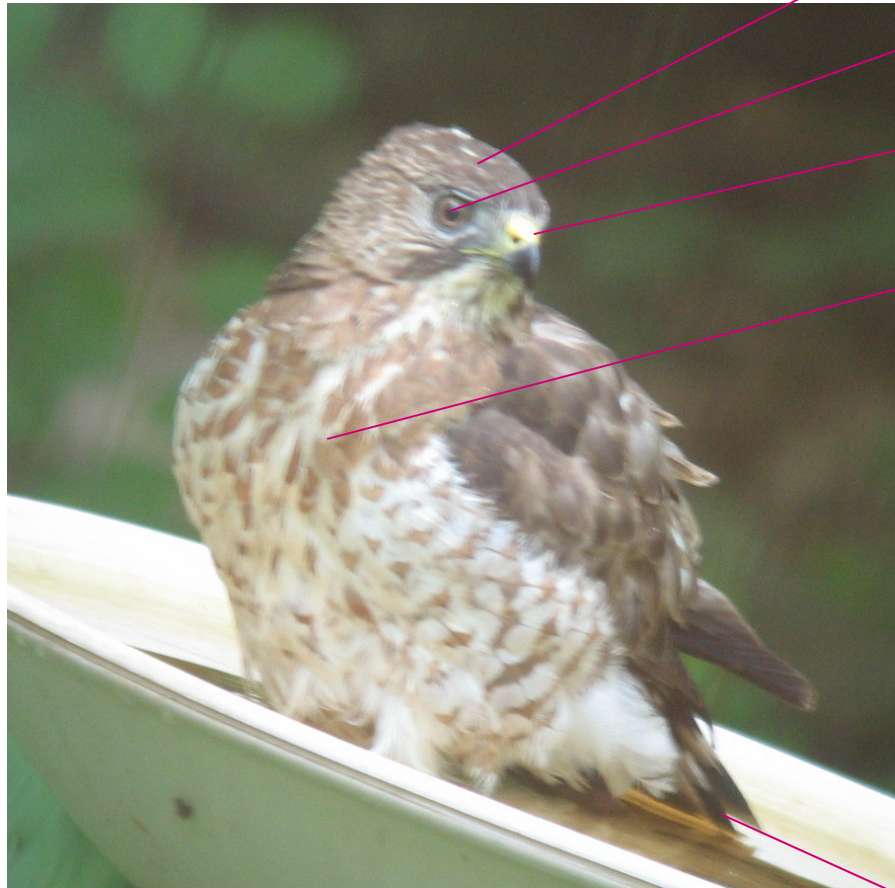


OK short tail (wings ~meet the tail tips), dark and light bands of different width, broad dark terminal band followed by smaller light then dark band then a narrow light band

And remember the brown eye, even color brown head, nape and back pattern

# Broad-winged Hawk

*Buteo platypterus*



Brown head  
nape & wings

Brown eye

Yellow Cere

Thick  
cinnamon bars

Shortish barred tail  
with thinner white band  
at base

My thanks to everyone who helped me through this identification.



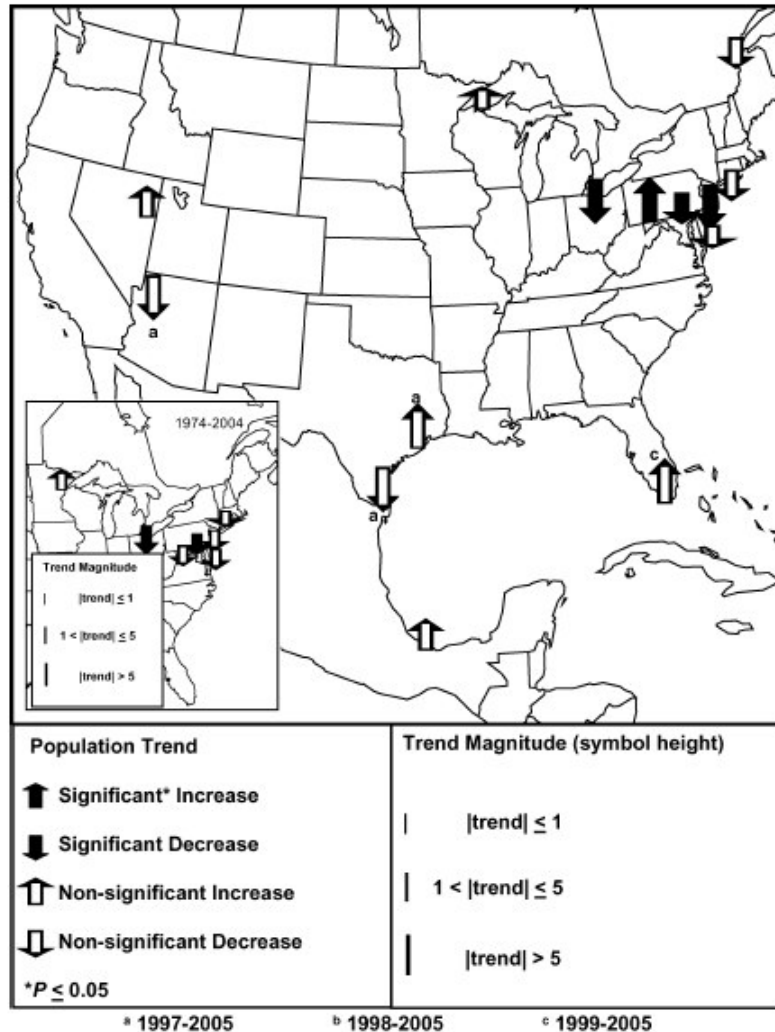


Fig. 13. Population trends for Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*) at eight northeastern (1994–2004), two western (1995–2005), and four Gulf of Mexico (1995–2005) raptor migration counts in North America, and long-term (1974–2004) trends at seven northeastern sites (inset). Trends are expressed in percent change per year.

With approval from Chris Farmer

### Conservation Status of North America's Birds of Prey

Christopher J. Farmer,<sup>1</sup> Laurie J. Goodrich,<sup>2</sup> Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza,<sup>3</sup> and Jeff P. Smith<sup>4</sup>

Judging from the nearly complete count of the continental population at Veracruz, the Broad-winged Hawk appears to be stable or increasing in North America. The ubiquity of decreasing long-term trend estimates in northeastern North America east of the central Great Lakes, however, suggests either (1) that regional declines are underway in eastern North America, perhaps as a consequence of logging in the boreal forest there, and that this is not happening elsewhere in the species' range; (2) that populations are stable in eastern Canada, but that changes in migration geography are causing declines in established counts in eastern North America; or (3) that both factors are operating.