

A PREVIOUSLY UNDESCRIBED CALL FOR THE BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*)

Scott Crocoll

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of
Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754
stcrocol@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Several types of vocalizations have been reported for the Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), the most familiar of which is a two-note whistle described variously as *peeur*, *kee-eee* or *peeowee*, with the first note higher pitched and shorter than the second. This typical call is given around the nest area and in flight and can be heard year round. There are also other calls given during food transfer, dismissal by the female when a male is approaching or leaving the nest, and a call emitted during copulation (Matray 1974, Goodrich *et al.* 1996). Herein I describe a previously undescribed call during an unrecorded behavioral context.

On 2 May 2007, I was conducting a raptor nest survey on the F. E. Jadwin State Forest, Lewis County, in northern New York State. As I was driving along one of the roads I heard a call which sounded Broad-winged Hawk-like and stopped my truck. I observed an adult-plumaged Broad-wing sitting in a partially constructed nest continuously uttering a call I had never heard before. The call consisted of two or three chip notes followed by a very short whistle. At the same time the bird moved around in the nest in a circular fashion. The nest construction appeared to be at an early stage as it was very easy to see through the bottom of the nest. There were some sticks in the tree crotch and some Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) sprigs in the bottom of the structure. The bird did not appear to notice me as I watched it for about five minutes. No other adults were seen within an approximate 50 meter radius of the nest while I was at the site. A search of the literature (Burns 1911, Matray 1974, Goodrich *et al.* 1996) revealed no mention of this vocalization or behavior.

Both Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*), while collecting twigs for nest building and during nest building, and Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), while nest building, have been observed to vocalize during this portion of the nesting cycle (Rosenfield, R. N. and J. Bielefeldt 1993, Kochert, *et al.* 2002). Rosenfield and Bielefeldt (1993) suggest that the *kik* call used by the male Cooper's Hawk during nest building may function to alert the female to his presence near the nest. It is possible that this vocalization in Broad-wings may have a similar function in nest building, but this will need verification with further nest observations.

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