

## VEHICLE-INDUCED MORTALITY OF A BROAD-WINGED HAWK IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Campbell and Preston (2006) provided examples of noteworthy records of animals found dead along traffic corridors in British Columbia and the useful information that can be obtained on distribution, range expansion, and natural history. On 20 June 2008, while driving north between Tumbler Ridge and Chetwynd, Gary Davidson and I found a small dead buteo in the south-bound lane of Highway 29 six kilometres south of Gwillam Lake. The bird, which undoubtedly collided with a vehicle, was recently killed as its wings were still relaxed and could be spread without effort. We took the carcass and I photographed it about three hours later from several angles to show diagnostic features for identification (Figures 1 to 4). The field marks of this hawk were consistent with those of a “moderately-streaked” immature Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) (Taylor *in* Alderfer 2006, Wheeler 2003).

Since its discovery in British Columbia in 1965 (Cannings et al. 1987), the Broad-winged Hawk has slowly become established in the central and northeastern portions of the province where it now breeds (Campbell et al. 1990, Phinney 1998, R.W. Campbell pers. comm.). It has also become a recent autumn migrant of southern Vancouver Island (Stirling 2001). In the western Peace River region, however, the Broad-winged Hawk is still considered rare in the vicinity of Chetwynd (Campbell et al. 2007) and casual in the Tumbler Ridge area (Helm 2006). Therefore, this record is noteworthy and also brings attention to a mortality factor for the species in the province. It is the second specimen record for British Columbia (see Campbell et al. 1990).

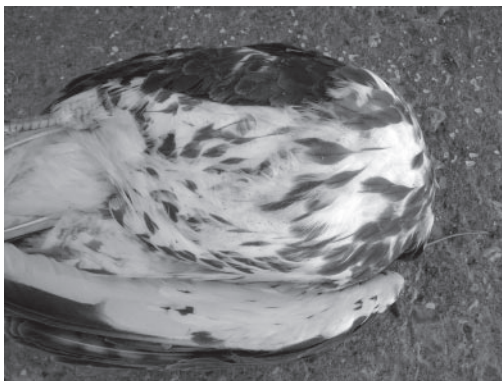
The carcass, as required by provincial law, was given to the B.C. Ministry of Environment in Fort St. John. Pierre Johnstone, a provincial biologist, has assured us that the hawk will be donated to a museum where it will be prepared as a permanent specimen record.



**Figure 1.** This dorsal profile shows a small buteo with cold-brown upper wing surfaces and a back and a crown streaked with white. The cere and legs are lemon-yellow. The tail has a very narrow buffy fringe, a broad grey-brown sub-terminal band and four narrower bands. The band at the tail's base is wider than the four "internal" bands. BC Photo 3627a.



**Figure 2.** This ventral surface shows part of the diagnostic white underwings with unbarred black tipped primaries. The underparts are marked with long brown streaks, largest and closest together on the sides of the chest. BC Photo 3627b.



**Figure 3.** The underside of the carcass shows very narrow bars on the tibia and the immaculate undertail coverts. BC Photo 3627c.



**Figure 4.** The uppertail surface shows that the coverts are worn, having lost their characteristic white tips. BC Photo 3627d.

#### *Literature Cited*

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