Red-tailed Hawk Home Blog Research - Subspecies Contribute -



A white Red-tailed Hawk from Oklahoma



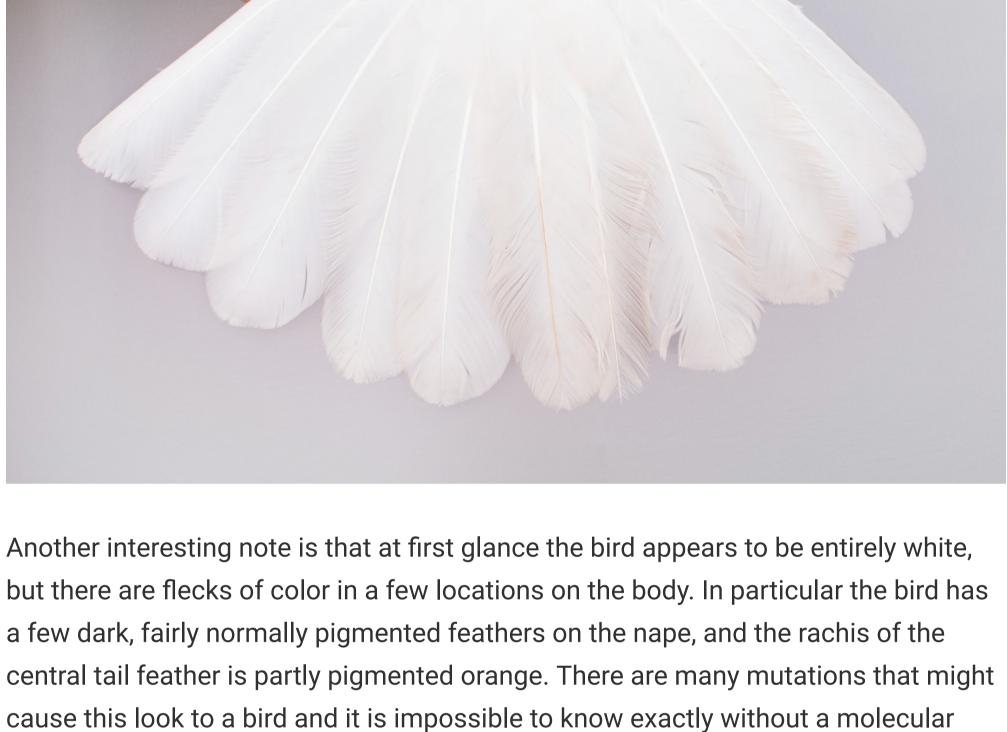
undergraduate students. While on the trail to trap *harlani* and intergrade types, Irby Lovette and undergrad Mei Rao came across a striking all white Red-tailed Hawk. After the rest of the group caught up, we had the incredible fortune to capture the individual.

that included some core project folks as well as a few keen Cornell University



in the primaries are strikingly obvious, with the old feathers being extremely worn.

Without melanin in these feathers, they degrade substantially.



its life called 'Progressive Graying'.

analysis, but because of the normally pigmented iris, bill, and the bits of color in the

few locations on the body, we do know it is not albinism. Our guess is that the bird

might be an example of a plumage aberration that slowly turns the bird white across

Also notable to us were the white talons, with bits of pigment in a few. It is curious that the irises have normal pigment, and the bill seems to as well, but the talons are affected. Without knowing for certain at the moment, one supposition is that the rate of growth in the talons might be much higher than the bill, or perhaps the localized effect of the aberration is just random and for no reason other than chance has not affected the bill.

Because the individual lacks any plumage features, it is next to impossible to assign

help, but not entirely). After some deliberation, the group decided to place a tracking

it to a subspecies or to know at all where this bird might breed (morphometrics do

unit on the bird. We'll be sure to post about its full cycle wanderings when we receive the data, but our guess is that the bird is actually a *harlani* and ends up somewhere in Alaska this summer. We shall see!

To see more of this bird, check out the eBird checklist:

https://ebird.org/checklist/S163166668



In "animal"

All of these photos were taken by Nicole Richardson and are deposited in the

♣ Bryce W. Robinson ♠ March 5, 2024 ■ Uncategorized ♠ albino, animal, biology, bird, hawk, leucism, leucistic, nature, plumage aberration, raptor, red-tailed hawk, science, tracking, transmitter, wildlife

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