

Brown Pelican
18 Oct 1982
Keokuk, Lee Co., IA
*Elton Fawks
IBL 52:118; 53:35

Record Number: 82-31
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Elton Fawks

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 52:118

Records Committee: 53:35

VOTE: 4-III, 2-IV, 1-V

III, Solely on observer reputation. Poor description for posterity.

V, no data.

III, Reluctantly, no real description of bird but at that distance how could you miss.

III, When revised.

IV, No. Brown Pelicans need a more thorough documentation that on given by Fawks.

REVOTE (at meeting, 20 November 1982 with additional information): 7-III

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation
by the Records Committee
of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: Brown Pelican

DATE SEEN: 10 Oct. 1982

SITE OF OBSERVATION: Mississippi River, bridge between Hamilton & Keokuk

OBSERVERS: Elton Fawks, Margaret Flesher

DATE OF REVIEW: November 1982

METHOD OF REVIEW: Discussion followed by secret ballot.

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: III

COMMENTS:

The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I = labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II = acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III = acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV = probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V = record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI = probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven committee members.

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

82-31

What species? Brown Pelican How many? twoLocation? We were stalled on Hamilton to Keokuk BridgeType of habitat? Mississippi RiverWhen? date(s): 18 Oct. 1982 time: 9:20 to _____Who? your name and address: Elton Fawks 3227-9th St. Moline Il. 61265 *Elton Fawks*others with you: Margaret Flesher

others before or after you: _____

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

These two brown large birds flew from our left, across front of our stalled car flying towards Iowa shore from mid river, first seen close to Ill. shore. We were watching several gulls when pelicans came into view.

Similar species and how eliminated: White Pelican eliminated by color and no black primaries. Color compared to white gulls in view same time.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
 Good sunlight, not too bright flew about 30 feet over our car no optical equipment used or needed.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Many Florida trips

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? 15 minutes this form completed? 8 days (had to get form from Petersen)

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

What species? Brown Pelican How many? twoLocation? We were stalled on Hamilton to Keokuk BridgeType of habitat? Mississippi RiverWhen? date(s): 18 Oct. 1982 time: 9:20 to 9:21Who? your name and address Elton Fawks 3227-9th St. Moline Il. 61265 *Elton Fawks*others with you: Margaret Flesher

others before or after you: _____

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

These two brown large birds flew from our left, across front of our stalled car flying towards Iowa shore from mid river, first seen close to Ill. shore. We were watching several gulls when pelicans came into view. very large bill and neck drawn back in flight. Nearly all brown no black wing tips as in White Pelican white on top of head, no other white seen.

On 60 plus years of birding this was one of the luckiest and clearest view of a rare bird. Seen from comfort of sitting in a car and watching sail by them.

*Additions delivered
by P.C. Petersen at
20 Nov 1982
meeting of Iowa Records Committee.*

Similar species and how eliminated: White Pelican eliminated by color and no black primaries. Color compared to white gulls in view same time.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Good sunlight, not too bright flew about 30 feet over our car no optical equipment used or needed.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Many Florida trips

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? 15 minutes this form completed? 8 days (had to get form from Petersen)

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240