

3. Upperparts fuscous; blackish band across belly; front of tarsi feathered; basal half and tip of tail white,	American Rough-legged Hawk	22
4. Entire Plumage, except naked red head, brownish-black,	Turkey Vulture	30
D. Underparts mostly light,		
1. Small, length about 10 inches,		
x. Back slaty-blue; 3 or 4 grayish-white tail bars,	Eastern Pigeon Hawk	10
y. Back slaty-gray; tail nearly square, and long,	Sharp-shinned Hawk	10
2. Larger, length 16 inches or more,		
x. Back dark bluish-slate; blackish cheek mark with whitish collar behind it on sides of neck; tail indistinctly barred,	Duck Hawk	16
y. Back slaty-gray; tail nearly square, and long, rounded,	Cooper's Hawk	16
z. Underparts evenly barred with gray; winter only,	Eastern Goshawk	22

## HOW TO KNOW IOWA HAWKS

By WALTER W. BENNETT

(Keep With Your Field Book Ready For Immediate Use)

Iowa students in ornithology who have struggled with the problem of identifying hawks should welcome a brief field key. While hawks vary greatly as to plumage, and although nomenclature of the order is not yet satisfactory and perhaps will be revised, yet there are many common hawks which should be easily recognized.

Because of the great variation among hawks there would be no end of detail to a complete key, so the following one is intended only to include the more easily recognized plumages and color phases. Because it is impractical to identify some of the immature Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Swainson's, and other hawks in the field, none but mature plumages are included. Likewise some of the more rare species, such as Richardson's Pigeon Hawk, Swallow-tailed Kite, Harlan's Hawk, and others, have been omitted for convenience.

The student should not become discouraged over identifying common hawks. They are not difficult. Look for the things that are important. Color, number of bars and shape of tail are vital; then color of back and head; size should be noticed; and finally, the color of underparts. After studying the key one will readily know what to look for. Length is the distance from tip of beak to end of tail. Thanks are due Dr. Witmer Stone, editor of *The Auk* and chairman of the A. O. U. committee for revision of the "Check-List," for nomenclature in accordance with the new "Check-List."

### FIELD KEY TO IOWA HAWKS

Approximate  
Length in Inches

- |  |                              |    |
|--|------------------------------|----|
| I. With red,   |                              |    |
| A. Head red, without feathers; plumage black or brownish black; mostly soars,  | Turkey Vulture               | 30 |
| II. Without red,   |                              |    |
| A. Upper parts with conspicuous white areas,   |                              |    |
| a. Head, neck and tail white; upper half of tarsus feathered; rest of plumage fuscous,                                 | Southern Bald Eagle          | 32 |
| b. Head mostly white with large black patch on side; upper-  |                              |    |
| parts grayish-brown; underparts white,   | Osprey                       | 23 |
| c. Upper tail coverts white,   | Marsh Hawk                   | 20 |
| d. Three narrow white and three broad fuscous tail bars, tip white,  | Broad-winged Hawk            | 16 |
| e. Basal half and tip of tail feathers white, rest fuscous; front of tarsi feathered,                                  | American Rough-legged Hawk   | 22 |
| B. Upperparts with conspicuous rufous areas,   |                              |    |
| a. Upper side of tail rufous,  | Eastern Red-tailed Hawk      | 20 |
| b. "Shoulder" patch rufous,  | Northern Red-shouldered Hawk | 19 |
| c. Back and upper side of tail rufous; black mark before and behind white ear coverts                                  | Eastern Sparrow Hawk         | 10 |
| d. Upperparts generally rufous; entire tail grayish-white; underparts white, rufous on sides; front of tarsi feathered | Ferruginous Rough-leg        | 23 |
| C. Underparts without conspicuous white or rufous areas,   |                              |    |
| a. Underparts mostly dark,   |                              |    |
| 1. Nearly whole plumage fuscous-brown; whole tarsus feathered; winter only,  | Golden Eagle                 | 32 |
| 2. Plumage fuscous except white head, neck and tail; upper half tarsus feathered                                       | Southern Bald Eagle          | 32 |