

DOCUMENTATION FORM FOR EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTINGS IN IOWA

What species? Vulture How many? 1

Location? Rolling Cove at Lake Rathbun

Type of habitat? Grassland with trees and fields.

When? date(s): 1/31/88 time: 11:55 Am to 12 noon

Who? your name and address: Dorothy M. Cornett, Pleasant View P. Apt 6-B
Centerville, Iowa 52544

others with you: Mary M. Montgomery

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.

The bird had a naked head, two toned wings held in an upward V, long tail extended beyond the legs. When first seen it was flying high behind us and on approaching was only 50 or so feet above us as it soared over and around the car and road most likely scavenging for a meal.

The next day about 5 miles, we saw a vulture but it was very high, same vicinity. Further

Don't know if it is noteworthy, but we also saw 22 robins at RC Jan 27th. R.B Gulls and common mergansers are coming in but lake is again freezing so may not stay.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Too big for most hawks and flew differently. Had just seen two immature and one mature eagle and couldn't be confused with those.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Partly cloudy but good bird viewing. 50 or so feet above at best, and with binoculars. Didn't need spotting scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

References and persons consulted before writing description:

National Geographic Birds of NA

How long before field notes made? 3-4 Min. this form completed? several days,
didn't have form.

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