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Burlington, Iowa

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

copy

What species? Turkey Vulture How many? 2

Location? 1 mi. N, 1 mi. W of Burlington

Type of Habitat? Open field with scattered trees, birds soaring

When? date(s): Saturday, December 17 time: 11:00 a.m.

Who? your name and address: Sharon Kaufman 3299 Irish Ridge Rd., Burlington

Others with you: Jerry and Lois Rigdon

Others before or after you: None

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Large soaring black bird, wing profile in a definite "V", underside of wing in typical turkey vulture pattern (light feathers at back of wing, darker feathers near front)

Similar species; how eliminated:

Wing profile eliminated immature bald and golden eagles as well as dark phase red-tailed hawk.

Pattern on underside of wing also used to eliminate above.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.
Mid-day bright sun behind us, distance estimated at 100 yards, seen through 7x35 Bausch and Lomb binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Many sightings of turkey vultures, special care taken in identification since sightings are unusual in winter

References and persons consulted before writing description: Birds of North America by Robbins, Bruun, Singer, Zim

How long before field notes made? immediate This form completed? one week later

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).