

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

OPAKVILLE

What species? TURKEY Vultures How many? 2

Location? SKY over Mark Twain Refuge & Mississippi river bluff near N. & A. Toolsboro IA.

Type of Habitat? Woods, River Bluff, Ponds, Sloughs etc.

When? date(s): December 19, 1986. time: 3^{PM} to 3¹⁵ PM.

Who? your name and address: Ed Wiederrecht, RRI Box 77 Wapello, Iowa 52653

Others with you: Ronald Cross, Wapello Iowa.

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.

The two Vultures soared in medium wide circles moving from south to north over the Mississippi Bluff & Mark Twain Refuge bottom lands. I observed naked heads & two towed black & grey wings held in a dihedral shallow V position & observed the rocking, tilting pattern of flight as they circled.

Similar species; how eliminated:

Bald Eagles are approximately same size but the adults have white heads & tails & the immatures do not have the distinctive 2 towed pattern on their flight feathers under the wings

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

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

Good light, blue sky. Approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ mile distant as they circled moving north up the bluff & refuge land. Bushnell Binocs. used.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Observed Turkey Vultures circling many times from hilltop at my home overlooking the refuge

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Birds of North America & Roger Troy Peterson's field guides.

How long before field notes made? Same day this form completed? two weeks

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