

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Turkey Vulture How many? ONE

Location? Lee County, north of Donnelson

Type of Habitat? open farmland

When? date(s): Mar 7, 1987 time: 3:00 pm to —

Who? your name and address: Christopher F Pilliod 435 Clark St Warsaw, IL 62379

Others with you: alone

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

Bird was gliding with dihedral wing pattern over open field. Underside was dark with proper lighter color contrasting in rear part of wing, due to translucent feathers.

Body was dark. Head was dark, typical of immature turkey vulture. Tail was dark. Head was small, too small for hawk or buteo.

Did not flap wings for a period of fifteen (15) seconds.

Similar species; how eliminated: Northern Harrier. This bird was too large for a harrier. Wrong underside wing color and pattern for harrier.

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

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

Sunny day. Bird flew over approx 100 ft above me. Naked eye

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Seen several in area over the years

References and persons consulted before writing description: Robert I. Cecil, National Geographic Field Guide

How long before field notes made? 2 days this form completed? 5 days

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