

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Turkey Vulture How many? 1

Location? Over fields, 2 or 3 miles SE of Palo, Iowa

Type of Habitat? Open country, near Cedar River, some woodlots.

When? date(s): Dec. 17, 1988 time: About 1:30^{PM}₁₀

Who? your name and address: Aldrich and Gladys Zoba

Others with you: None

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 bird, very dark, flying overhead, small head, long tail. Flapped some, and glided, going into wind, sort of floppy. No white on it at all. Did not notice the two-toned coloration of the wings. Wings were set at an angle above horizontal when bird was soaring. Seen for at least 2 or 3 minutes.

"Looked like a huge, floppy crow", flying quite erratically, having a very hard time going into the wind (NW).

Similar species; how eliminated:

Not a bald eagle, because tail was long and head was small
Flight not that of a hawk or eagle; much larger than a crow.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Sun behind clouds, early PM, very windy, ^{sun} behind observers, and off to right. Bird was just past observers (almost overhead), then went off to NW, maybe
Previous experience with species and similar ones: 150 ft.-200ft. above ground - Viewed through binoculars (7X35 + 10X50)

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? 12-21-88

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