

Black Vulture
29 Aug 1959
Winnebago Co., IA
Harold Burgess
Burgess 1959

Record Number: 93-BI
Classification: A-D

REFERENCE

Burgess, H.H. 1959. Black Vulture in Winnebago County. IBL
29:98.

VOTE: 5 A-D

A-D, Burgess provides diagnostic details (black head, short tail, white wing patches) and details of date and location. The length of 24 inches and wing span of 58 inches compares with National Geographic Guide figures of 25 and 57 for Black Vulture and 27 and 69 for Turkey Vulture. /thk

A-D, Description is adequate; I question reliance on measurements - how were wings stretched out for measurement? /wrs

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Black Vulture in Winnebago County.—A Winnebago County farmer on August 29, 1959, shot and brought (on August 31) an unusual vulture to my office for identification. The vulture had a shorter tail and shorter wings than the typical Turkey Vulture. Its total length was 24 inches, while its wing-spread was 58 inches. The vulture's head was dark and sparsely covered with short, dark feathers. In checking with Peterson's "Field Guide to the Birds", we had to agree that it had "white wing patches" and the tail was no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the length of legs" as described for the Black Vulture of the south. We theorized that this vulture may have glided up here on the hot, persistent, southwest winds that occurred the last weeks of August. The farmer "shot the huge bird to protect his livestock"! Apparently the vulture had been feeding on a dead sheep as its feet were covered with sheep wool. Unfortunately the vulture was too far decomposed to save as a specimen.—HAROLD H. BURGESS, Refuge Manager, Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Titonka, Iowa.