

Gray Hawk
25 May 1895
Van Buren Co., IA
Walter G. Savage
Henning 1895, Anderson 1907, DuMont 1933

Record Number: 81-HY
Classification: NA

PAINTING

Watercolor by William Savage, State Historical Society, Des Moines, 6053.43 [photo by T. H. Kent, 2000; not reviewed]

REFERENCES

Henning, C. F. 1895. Notes and news. The Iowa Ornithologist 1:89.
Anderson 1907
DuMont 1933

VOTE (1981): 2-V, 5-VI

VI, was a broad-wing by picture.

VI, see DuMont (1934).

V, 2 specimens in Savage's private collection. No description of them is given. In view of this observer's picture (painting of an 1895 specimen which he incorrectly identified, all of his records are doubtful.

VI, Juvenal Broad-winged Hawk (DuMont). The Illinois record by Ridgeway is considered hypothetical by Bohlen (1978).

81-HY



SHS#: 043 Broad-winged Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk. See next page for details.

81-Hy

SHS#: 043

Species: a. Sharp-shinned Hawk, b. Broad-winged Hawk

Front: Sharp shinned Hawk 5-21-1896 Wm Savage Iowa
Gray Star Buzzard

Back: 200; 7.50; finished May 21, 1896 Wm Savage.

SHS log: 22 5/8 x 22 3/8

Diary: 8 Jun 1895 "paint some on Gray star Buzzard. Seth shot"; 17 Jun 1895 "paint some on Hawk."; 18 Jun 1895 "paint on Same Hawk."; 23 Sep 1895 "I shot a hawk in field. (Broad Wing Buzzard....skin said hawk."; 7 Oct 1895 "paint on Sharp shinned Hawk."; 11 Oct 1895 "paint some on Sharp shinned Hawk."; 13 May 1896 "paint some on Sharp shinned Hawk"; 21 May 1896 "finish Gray Star Buzzard & Sharp shin Hawk."

Comment: Sharp-shinned Hawk is an adult, fair. Broad-winged Hawk is an immature with a snake. Condition: clean. DuMont examined Gray Star Buzzard and found it to be an immature Broad-winged Hawk. Broad-wingeds may still be in immature plumage in spring. According to Coues (Coues, E. 1903. *Key to North American Birds*, 5th edition, p. 693), the name Gray Star Buzzard or Mexican Goshawk is applied to the species *Asturina plagiata*. The *A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds*, fifth edition (1957) lists *Austerina plagiata maxima* as an archaic term for *Buteo nitidus maximus* or Gray Hawk. Whether Wm. Savage (or perhaps David L. or Walter Savage) used this term based on Coues or some other source, we do not know. The bird in this painting appears to be the only bird Savage called Gray Star Buzzard. The references to this bird are Anon [D. L. Savage, ed.]. 1895. News and Notes. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1(3):89. ("Walter G. Savage, of Hillsboro, Ia., feels proud over securing a female specimen of Gray Star Buzzard, on 25 May, 1895, in Van Buren Co. Ia., near his home." and DuMont, P. A. 1933. A revised list of the birds of Iowa. *Univ. of Iowa Studies in Natural History* 15(5) (in appendix under birds removed from Anderson's list, "*Asturina plagiata plagiata* Schlegel. Mexican Goshawk. Water G. Savage records (*Iowa Orn.*, I, p. 89) the capture of a female in Van Buren County, May 25, 1895. A painting, presumably of this bird, done by William Savage, is contained in the Iowa Historical Society Museum, Des Moines. The artist's inscription is "Gray Star Buzzard, Iowa, Wm. Savage." This painting was recently seen, and it proved to be one of a juvenal Broad-winged Hawk.").

DuMont, P. A. 1937. A revised list of Iowa birds. Iowa City, University of Iowa
p 159

Asturina plagiata plagiata Schlegel. Mexican Goshawk

Walter G. Savage recorded (Iowa Orni., I, p. 89) the capture of a female in Van Buren County, May 25, 1895. A painting, presumably of this bird, done by William Savage, is contained in the Iowa Historical Museum, Des Moines. The artist's inscription is "Gray Star Buzzard, Iowa, Wm. Savage." This painting was recently seen, and it proved to be one of a juvenal Broad-winged Hawk.

149. (346). *Asturnia plagiata* Schleg. Mexican Goshawk.

This is a species of Mexico and the southwestern United States, said to straggle up the Mississippi Valley to southern Illinois. There is but one Iowa record (Iowa Orn., i, 4, 1895, 89): "Walter G. Savage of Hillsboro feels proud over securing a female specimen of Gray Star Buzzard, on May 25, 1895, in Van Buren county, Iowa, near his home." In a letter, Mr. Savage says: "In 1895 I shot a pair of these, the only ones that I ever knew of occurring in our locality—Mexican Goshawk is Gray Star Buzzard. I have the skins of two of these Hawks, and am positive of identity: killed in Van Buren county, on Big Cedar."

Anderson 1907
p 251

Henning, C. F. 1895. Notes and news. The Iowa Ornithologist. 1:89.

Walter G. Savage, of Hillsboro, Ia., feels proud over securing a female specimen of Gray Star Buzzard, on May 25, 1895, in Van Buren Co. Ia., near his home.

Genus *Asturina* Vieillot.13. *ASTURINA PLAGIATA* Schlegel. 346.

Mexican Goshawk.

Field Characters.—A medium sized, ashy-gray hawk, with white at the base of the tail.

Description.—"Above, deep ashy-gray, top of head and back of neck with five blackish shaft streaks; tail black, tipped with white, and crossed by two or three narrow bands of white; feathers covering base of tail white; below, white, very regularly barred with ashy, the stripes being farther apart on the flanks and belly." (Fisher.)

Measurements.—Length, 16 to 18 inches; wing, 9.50 to 11.70 inches; tail, 6.70 to 8.20 inches (Fisher).

Range.—"Southern Arizona and lower Rio Grande Valley south to Costa Rica; winters south of the United States; accidental in southern Illinois." (A. O. U. Check List, 1910.) Also accidental in Iowa. (W. G. Savage.)

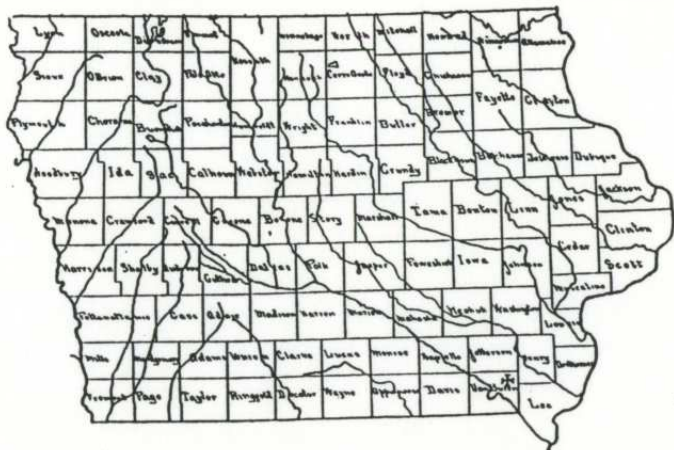


Fig. 50.—Map showing the distribution in Iowa of the Mexican Goshawk.

The Mexican Goshawk is a rare straggler from the Southwest. It was seen in southern Illinois by Mr. Robert Ridgway. (Ornithology of Ill., p. 463, 1889.)

A single instance of its occurrence is recorded by R. M. Anderson

in The Birds of Iowa, p. 251, 1907. The capture was made by Walter G. Savage, in Van Buren county on Big Cedar creek, May 25, 1895.

The chief interest in this species lies in its having been taken in Iowa so far from its usual range. Doubtless other species quite as rare have remained unrecorded for Iowa because they were unrecognized.

Asturina plagiata Schlegel.

Ridgway, Robert, Ornithology of Illinois, p. 463, 1889.

Bendire, Capt. Chas., Life Histories of North American Birds, p. 251, 1892.

Fisher, A. K., Hawks and Owls of the U. S., p. 85, 1893.

Savage, Walter G., Under Notes and News: The Iowa Ornithologist, Vol. I, No. 4, p. 89. (Van Buren County.)

Anderson, R. M., Birds of Iowa, p. 251, 1907.

Cory, C. B., Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin, p. 469, 1909.

Genus *Archibuteo* Brehm.Subgenus *Archibuteo*14. *ARCHIBUTEO LAGOPUS SANCTI-JOHANNIS*

(Gmelin). 347a.

Rough-legged Hawk. Black Hawk. St. John's Hawk.

Field Characters.—This hawk occurs in *two phases*, the *light* and the *dark*. The light phase is to be recognized by a conspicuous *dark belt* across the belly and thighs. The basal part of the tail, the legs, and in part the head are whitish. In the darker phase the bird is *uniformly brownish, black or sooty*. They are birds of the open fields or marsh land, and are not found in the state during the summer.

Description.—Above, dusky with tawny or buff edgings to the feathers of the back and upper wings. Head noticeably lighter than back; basal part of tail whitish, the remainder blackish or banded. Below, white or buffy-white streaked with black, the markings forming a distinct belt across the belly including the thighs. *Legs feathered completely to the toes*. In the dark phase, more or less uniformly black or brownish black.

Measurements.—Length, 20 to 23 inches; wing, 16 to 18 inches; tail, 9 to 11 inches.