

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Common Barn Owl How many? 1
 Location? Smith's slough - clay County - Dewey Pasture Area
 Type of habitat? Forest-edge - slough near by lake within 1/4 mi
 When? date(s): Oct. 16, 1988 time: 5:30 to 6:00 p.m
 Who? your name and address: MRS. ELDON (DIXIE) KANAGO - 918 E 10 - Spencer
 others with you: MRS. FOREST (JUDY) KNIGHT, + MRS. GENE KEHOE (ALICE)
 others before or after you: MR. WAYNE SOUETZ - RUTHVEN, IA
 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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

An owl - larger than screech - but smaller than gt. horned owl, beak not too visible as head was tipped downward. eyes closed as if sleeping - light rusty vertical patch on shoulder - tiny definite dark pin dots on breast and around head - Couldn't see legs as a few dry leaves on tree in front of lower body - Saw one black talon - No voice - sat very still - very slight movement of head at one time - chickadee flew around perching near him for a while.

Similar species and how eliminated: _____

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain: _____

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

Good, Sunny, before dusk - about 12' away (estimated)
Binoculars - 7x35, 7x35, 7x50.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: First time for all viewers for barn owl - no similar ones seen.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

NAT'L Geog. Birds of N.A.; Birds of N.A. - Robbins, Brown, Zim, Singer; Field guide -
 How long before field notes made? 45 min. this form completed? Oct. 18, 88 R.F. Peter son

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

Attention: Mr. Keat -

Hope this is of some value in your bird records - We have alerted others in this area to be more watchful of barn owls & to report them -

This is first time we've used this form so hope it is acceptable -

We announce it on the In-Bird Hot Line & our own

Northwest In-Bird Hot Line
712-262-5958

Thanks -

Alvin Kanago
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