

Harlan's Hawk Description

1100 1 Jan 1999. Big Eddy portion of Des Moines River about 1 mile east of Fraser IA. Sky overcast, temperature about 15 F, winds aloft from east 10-15 mph.

The bird was seen soaring at an altitude of about 100 feet. Also observed perched at a distance of 150 feet. Viewed through binoculars by Kevin and Rosanne Healy, Amy Yoakum, and Molly Havlik.

Adult Harlan's Hawk. A dark buteo, black head, throat and belly. Underwing coverts black. Flight feathers light grey with thin black banding. White streaking noted on upper breast and (as bird twisted head to look below while soaring) on nape. Tail was light grey with thin black bands and wider black sub-terminal band with white edge. No rufous in tail. The wing shape was notable for having outer secondaries slightly longer than inner primaries. While soaring, bird gave a typical Red-Tailed Hawk cry.

Seen perched the bird's back was black with dark brown highlights. No white seen on back.

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