

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species? Burrowing Owl

How Many? three

Location? 5 miles NNW of Mason City

Habitat? birds were on fenceposts and along ditch next to a soybean field

Date? 23 August 1987

Time? 12:15 p.m.

Observers Name and address: Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames

Others who saw bird:

Description of bird: small earless owl; in posture, the bird generally stood very upright with long legs set far back on body; it also bent over into a horizontal position. The basic color was a light chocolate brown with some grayish to it. Light colored spots were evident on the bird. Two birds had this brownish color while the third was more gray. The latter seemed to have a shorter tail when it flew and I believe it was a young bird. The iris was yellow. In flight, the birds showed the typical deep undulating flight of Burrowing Owls that I have seen numerous times.

Similar species and how eliminated: Much too small for a Short-eared Owl, flight pattern different. Only other small earless owl, the N. Saw-whet, is smaller, juvenile pattern is different, and doesn't have long legs like this bird.

Viewing conditions and equipment: 15 feet away, 6 power binoculars

Previous experience with species: Have seen numerous Burrowing Owls in Florida, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, etc.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes were made?

How long before this form was completed? 18 hours