

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Swainson's Hawk (dark phase) How many? 1

Location? 1 mi. E of Union Slough N.W.R., Kossuth Co., Ia. south of Titonka

Type of Habitat? Pasture dotted with trees, stream in bottom. Blacktop

When? date(s): 27 March 1988 time: 10:30(est) to 10:35(est) A.M.


Who? your name and address: Matthew Keene 709 N. Phillips, Algona, Ia. 50511

Others with you: none

Others before or after you: none

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A dark crow-sized, broad-winged bird with broad, rounded tail circled to the west of me. It wheeled overhead to the East and then passed to the South circling several more times. It was silent, banking and swerving quite a bit trying to hold (hunting) position in the wind. Uniformly dark over head, back, tail, chest, belly, and both upper and lower wing surfaces. The underside of the tail was paler, but no streaking or banding could be seen.

the wings were held in a shallow  when gliding.

Similar species; how eliminated: It left when 2 crows came to chase it.

Other dark buteos have paler areas underneath, but this bird was as dark underwing as chest, belly, and back.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NA

If yes, explain:

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

Full sunlight. 20 yards to power-line over flown/power-line high  
7X50 binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Saw light-phase Swainson's west of Union Slough last summer.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

none

How long before field notes made? none this form completed? 2 hr.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).