

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? SWAINSON'S HAWK -- DARK PHASE How many? ONELocation? WOODBURY COUNTY, BRANSON, IOWAType of habitat? Open pastures and bare fieldsWhen? date(s): 4 May 1984 time: 10:05 A.M. to 10:20 A.M.Who? your name and address: Jack A. Holloway III Rural Route 1 Branson, Ia 51007others with you: Noneothers 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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

SIZE: Slightly larger than Red-Tailed HawkBody was entirely dark brown except for:1) Light coloration on cere and just underneath the beak on the throat2) Dingy white wash - rather indistinct - on the rump
It was not very noticeable unless the bird flew at the right angle.WINGS: Relatively pointed and extended beyond tail when perched on fence postFLIGHT: Wings were held above the horizontal when flapping + gliding -- Very distinct

Similar species and how eliminated:

HARLAN'S: Harlan's has more white on the tail and on the underside of wing
Harlan's wings are not as long + does not have the distinct habit of flying with the wings at such a noticeable angle.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No one else present

If yes, explain:

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

Skies overcast but light was not limiting 7 x 35 binocularsDistance: 75 to 100 m; Length of my property known

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Never seen Dark phase Swainson's or Harlan's: Very familiar with Red-Tailed + Swainson's Hawk

References and persons consulted before writing description:

A Field Guide to the Birds (Peterson, 1980) Audubon Master Guide (1983) Birds of North America (1983) RobbinsHow long before field notes made? 5 minutes this form completed? 4 days

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