

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Swainson's hawk 2. Number 3
3. Location Near Bayard, Guthrie Co, IA
4. Date: 9-~~28~~ 21-80 5. Time Bird Seen: ~ 11:30 AM to ~ 11:40 AM

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

- large (red-tail sized) buteos - long broad wings, fan-shaped tails. Compared to a redtail, had narrower tail, more slender wings, and more pointed wingtips.
- Underparts and wing-linings pure white; underside of head, upper chest dark; primaries, ^{and secondaries} dark, nearly black. Tail dark, but not as dark as primaries.

Swainson's unusual this far east in migration (Poss. Silcock).

7. Description of voice, if heard: —

8. Description of behavior: three soaring together over a knoll, gaining altitude; soared to SE, found another thermal, repeated process.

9. Habitat - general: farmland

specific:

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: build, combination of white underparts + wing-linings plus dark flight-feathers eliminate other possible buteos - redtail, roughleg, broadwing, ferruginous, red-shoulder

11. Distance (how measured)?
200 yds - 1/2 mile (est)

12. Optical equipment:
8x40 binocs.

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

sun at 90° angle to obs → bird line.
day clear.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

have seen Swainson's in CO, AZ; ^{have} also ^{seen} rufous buteos listed in (10).

15. Other observers: T. Shires, C.S. Newlan, T. Kent.

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: —

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
None

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

transcribed from notes made immediately after observation.

Signature: Michael C Newlan Address: 408 Wicks St

Date: 9-28-80 City, State: Iowa City IA 52240