

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Burrowing Owl 2. Number 1

3. Location 1 mi S. of Ames IA

4. Date: 1 April 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 4<sup>15</sup> to 4<sup>35</sup> PM

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):

Small owl with flat earless head, large yellow eyes and long pale legs. Overall brown with white under chin and patchy brown on white underparts. Prominent narrow brown bands at sides of neck. In flight, tail and wings light brown with fine horizontal barring on tail and five spots on back and wings. While standing in plowed field the bird "bobbed" several times.

7. Description of voice, if heard: NA

8. Description of behavior: Standing in grassy edge and plowed field. Always lit on ground. Bobbing behavior.

9. Habitat - general: farm land - plowed field, grass edge and grassy yard  
specific: 1 mi S. of U.S. 30 on Elwood, Ames IA

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
no similar species

11. Distance (how measured)?  
20-40 yards (est)

12. Optical equipment:  
8x40 Leitz Telescopes

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
Late PM sun - bird seen at all angles

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
Seen in Colorado several times

15. Other observers: Bill Kent

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:  
Hank Zaletel, Jim Dunsmore, Others

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?  
description written while watching bird

Signature: Thomas H Kent Address: 211 Richards St

Date: Iowa City, Iowa City, State: 1 Apr 1981