

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Rough-legged Hawk How many? 1Location? 1-2 miles east of Mt. Vernon, IA (Linn County) on Highway 30.Type of habitat? N/AWhen? date(s): 11 May 82 time: 1532 to 1535 estWho? your name and address: James P. Sandrock, Iowa City, IAothers with you: James Huntingtonothers before or after you: N/A

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.

While driving west on Highway 30, James Huntington and I spotted a large buteo soaring south of the highway. We stopped the car and watched the bird through binoculars as it soared 50'-100' in the air above and to the north and south of the highway. The bird had buteo wings and body; was light underneath with a dark band across belly; wings were tipped with black and had black patch at wrist of each wing; tail was white with dark, wide terminal band. Observed the bird for approximately three minutes as it circled above us at varying heights. Did not see bird's back.

Similar species and how eliminated: Did not have the red tail of Red-tailed Hawk; a Northern Harrier would be slimmer with longer, narrower tail and wings.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Sunny; 50'-100' above us in air (est); 7 x 35 binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen a good number of Rough-legged as well as similar species.

References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? - this form completed? 9 Jun 82

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