

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Common Barn-Owl How many? 1Location? 1 mile west of Red Rock Reservoir, Marion County, Ia.Type of habitat? a grove of deciduous trees with some old buildings adjacent to the floodwaters of the RR Reservoir.When? date(s): May 5, 1984 time: approx. 3:45 PM to 3:50 PMWho? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4624 Arkansas Dr. Ames, Ia. 50010others with you: Mike Nolan, Ames Mark Dixon Ames Eugene + Eloise Armstrong, Boonevilleothers before or after you: Hank Zalatel 715 West St. Colo, Ia. 50056

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.

The bird was a rather good sized owl standing an estimated 15-16" when viewed perched. The bird was viewed briefly at a distance of 20' (est.). The heart-shaped face with dark-colored border and dark eyes was clearly seen. The face appeared to be white in color. The eyes were dark, as well as the heart-shaped border around the face. The throat, breast, and belly appeared a uniform white in color. The under-tail was not seen. The back of tail, back, and back of wings were all a cinnamon brown color. The legs ^{and feet} were dark in color, as well as the beak. The back of the head was also cinnamon colored.

When seen sitting, the bird perched upright like other owls and birds of prey. When seen flying, the owl often glided with wings cupped downward. The bird did not call while seen.

Flight profile



Similar species and how eliminated: Separated from other hawks and owls by the cinnamon-colored back contrasting with pure white underparts and a heart shaped white face with dark borders.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain: _____

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

Lighting was excellent - clear, sunny day with sun behind us. Bird was flushed at an estimated distance of 20'. The bird then flew several hundred yards (est.) in plain view before it disappeared in a grove of trees. Used 7x35 Bush + Lomb binoculars. The bird was seen sitting at 20' briefly before flushed.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

No experience with Barn Owls, but have seen all other owls that can be expected in Iowa.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

National Geographic Society Field Guide to the birds of N. America

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? 24 hours.

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