

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*) How many? 1Location? Approximately 1 1/2 mi South of Roland along county road R77, Story CountyType of habitat? Roadside ditch, growover along a bean field separated by 3 or 4
strand barbed wire fence.When? date(s): September 7, 1981 time: 12:40 to 1:00Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 264 Western Ave, Waterloo, IA 50701others with you: Russell Hays, Bob Myersothers before or after you: Hank Zalatel

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, when noticed was sitting on a wooden fence post alongside the west side of county road R77 as stated above. We drove past the owl and approached from the south after turning around. At our approach and when we got out of the vehicle the owl flew from the perch it was sitting on and flew to the North staying on the west side of the pavement. Lighting was good with a bright overcast to sunny day. The wind was blowing out of the North at about 20 mph. The bird flew to a metal post about 75 yards from where it was when first seen and we made a more cautious approach from the opposite side of the road. As the owl sat on the metal post it had to bend forward toward the North so that the wind would not blow it from the post. Readily seen were its long legs and the overall sandy color of its whole body. Also seen was a black throat band and the white throat patches both above and below the black band. Also noticeable was a lighter "eyebrow" above the eyes. Bob Myers and I took pictures of the owl as it was perched on the metal post. Voice was not heard.

Similar species and how eliminated: The above bird had a completely different shape as compared to the Common Screech Owl and the Saw-whet Owl; see above.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NoIf yes, explain: N/AViewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Sunny, windy wind from North; viewed from 35 feet to 100 yards; using 7x35mm
B + L Roof Prism Binoculars and 20x Bushnell Spacemaster telescope.Previous experience with species and similar ones: No previous experience with this species
but have seen all other small owls that are commonly found in Iowa (Screech and Saw-whet)References and persons consulted before writing description: A Guide to Field Identification by
Robbins, Brown, Zim and SingerHow long before field notes made? None this form completed? 1 week
copied from old form

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