

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

CBC

1. Species Gray Partridge 2. Number 7
  3. Location 2 miles west of North Liberty IA on county road F28
  4. Date: 12-16-78 5. Time Bird Seen: about 1<sup>30</sup>pm to for 3-4 min.
  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):  

While driving we spotted 7 quail-like birds in a snow covered field of corn stubble. They stood quite upright and were about twice the size of Bobwhite. The face and anterior neck were tan and sharply demarcated from the gray body. The belly contained a sharply demarcated dark (appeared black in the back lit birds) patch. In flight, the tail appeared dark and rounded at the tip. The birds, which were in a tight flock, flew twice for short distances and then flew across the road and over a slight rise and out of sight.
  7. Description of voice, if heard: none
  8. Description of behavior: The upright stance, tight flocking, and running were noted.
  9. Habitat - general: flat farm land  
specific: cut, snow covered corn field
  10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
Bobwhite, Chukar
  11. Distance (how measured)? estimated at 80 yards
  12. Optical equipment: binoculars - up to 8x
  13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Clear, low sun behind or slightly to side of birds
  14. Previous experience with this species and ~~similarly appearing species~~: none
  15. Other observers: Tom Shires, Rick Hollis, Carl Bendorf
  16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
  17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Seen in late pm by conservation office (via Nick Kalmi)  
No Gray Partridge raised or released in this area (Wendell Simonson via Nick Kalmi)
  18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: Robbins consulted while observing birds
  19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 1 day
- Signature: Thomas H Kent Address: 211 Richards St  
Date: 12-17-78 City, State: Iowa City, Iowa 52240