

Ferruginous Hawk
31 Dec 1954
Marshall or Grundy County, Marshall Co., IA
Mrs. Harold Brown, Mrs. J. Ray King
Pierce 1955, Brown 1971, Wilson 1988

Record Number: 93-HH
Classification: NA

REFERENCES

Christmas Bird Count: IBL 25:10
Brown 1971
Wilson 1988

VOTE: 4 A-D, 1 NA

A-D, Bill Clark reviewed this record for Barb Wilson and accepted it ("Ad. III"). This is one of three sight records accepted by Wilson. The combination of field marks (white underparts, rufous shoulders, white tail) would be the easy to see and fit adult Ferruginous well. I would like to have a lot more field marks for confirmation, but am hesitant to dismiss this bird because of that. A borderline call. Brown (1971) gives the location as Grundy County while the CBC account only mentions Marshalltown (Marshall County) and Eldora/Pine Lake (Hardin County). I assume Brown got further information from the observers./thk

NA, This description is no more convincing than others which have been rejected. Was the tail white above also? What about feathering on tarsi? I believe reasonable doubts exist here. The description is a little too simplistic; also the eastward location raises questions in my mind. /wrs

RE-VOTE: 2 A-D, 2 NA, 1 no vote recorded

NA, Agree with Ross that we should be conservative on old records of this species./thk

A-D, OK, let's look at this another way. We have a hawk with pure white underparts, rufous back, and white tail. What else could it have been? No Rough-leg or Red-tail has this combination of field marks. This description is thin, but is beyond reasonable doubt./cjb

NA, 'Rufous' is subjective -- need better description of bird -- sounds like a Krider's Red-tail to me./wrs

93-HH
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Ferruginous Hawk

Pierce, F. J. 1955. The 1954 Christmas bird census in Iowa. IBL 25:5-12. (p 10)

13. MARSHALLTOWN (Iowa River in and near city, and auto trip to Eldora and Pine Lake; 50% open country, 50% woodland). Dec. 31; 8 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. Temp. 10° to 34°; wind SE, 5 m. p. h.; 1 mile on foot, 110 by car. Observers together. Mrs. Harold Brown, Mrs. J. Ray King.

Ferruginous Rough-leg sat in a tree not more than 100 feet away; it was pure white from bill to end of tail, except that head, neck, back and shoulders were rufous; white tail had no black band at tip. Both this bird and Golden Eagle were studied with 7x35 binoculars and 20x 'scope. Golden Eagle's unusually large size was noted; also the white tail with dark terminal band, and white on wings at base of primaries. Both birds were observed on five different days. (A Golden Eagle was previously taken by a man living near Parkersburg, which is near here; specimen mounted.—Mrs. J. R. K.)

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southern part of the state." DuMont (1933) thought: "A few are permanent residents" and Grant (1963) called it a "Common permanent resident."

There has been a sharp decrease in numbers in recent years, and it now rarely nests except in some of the wooded areas along the Mississippi River (Brown, 1964).

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* (Vieillot)

Common migrant, rare breeding bird

Spring migrants usually appear in the latter part of April and one seen on 3 March (EJP) was unusually early. Fall migrants appear early in September with the peak in the last third of the month. An estimated 250 were seen on 22 September, 1968 at the site of the Saylorville Dam in Polk Co. (JKB). There have been occasional winter records with the latest on 7 January (EC).

Most of the summer records are from Des Moines in the years 1955-1960 which nests were found in several of these years (JCK). Other nesting records are from Patisades-Kepler State Park in 1956 (Kline, 1956) and Ledges State Park in 1969 (EC, pers. comm.).

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* Bonaparte

Rare breeding bird

Although a western species, it is occasionally found in eastern Iowa. It has nested as far east as Scott Co. where immatures were found in 1962 (LB, pers. comm.). Roosa (1964b) mentions some of the nesting records. Observations have been made as early as 12 March (PCP) and as late as 31 October (RMH). There is also a winter record of a pair in Polk Co. observed on 30 December, 1961 and 7 January, 1962, with a single bird in the same area on 14 January, 1962 (Peasley, 1962).

Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus* (Pontoppidan)

Common winter resident

The earliest fall date of 1 October (DR). Late observations were on 9 May, 1948 at Cedar Rapids (L.B.L., 18:62) and 17 May, 1947 at Cedar Falls (L.B.L., 17:72). Most observations have been north of theavenport-Des Moines latitude, but it has been recorded as far south as Burlington where it was found during the 1962 Christmas Census (L.B.L., 33:6).

Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis* (Gray)

Casual

Recent records of this western species are: 13 May, 1946 in the Spirit Lake-Cheever Lake area (Musgrove, 1947); 8 September, 1946, Polk Co. (Stiles, 1946); 1 October, 1951, Sidney, Fremont Co. (RB); 31 December, 1954, Grundy Co. (JRK); 3 November, 1962, Adair Co. (Peterson, 1962).

Harris' Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus* (Ternmink)

Accidental
Admission to the Iowa list is based on a 1904 record mentioned by Anderson (1907). There is no Iowa specimen extant.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (Linnaeus)

Rare migrant

They have been reported throughout the state, but occur principally in the northern half.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Linnaeus)

Common migrant and winter resident

Both Anderson (1907) and DuMont (1933) described winter observations as occasional. Grant (1963) recorded it as a common migrant and winter visitor in the east but rare in the west.

Observations range from 5 September (FL) to 7 May (WHB). There are March and October dates at Sioux City (WY) and they are commonly found at Forneys Lake in Fremont Co. during the spring goose migration. From 30 to 75 have been sighted in one day along the Mississippi River where they arrive in mid-November and leave about 1 March (PCP, pers. comm.).

Marsh Hawk *Circus cyaneus* (Linnaeus)

Common migrant and uncommon permanent resident

It is seen in all months; more often in spring and fall, and less frequently in summer and winter. The number of breeding birds has decreased markedly in recent years, and few are now seen in some sections. A nesting in 1957 is described by Kent and Vane (1957).

Family PANDIONIDAE

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (Linnaeus)

Uncommon migrant

Spring migration dates have been from 1 March (EJP) to 19 May (PF). It has been observed in fall from 1 September (RMH) to 26 December (DD, IC). It is reported to be decreasing rapidly in most of its range.

Family FALCONIDAE

Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus* Linnaeus

Accidental

The only record was on 27 October, 1946 at Cheever Lake, Emmet Co. (Musgrove, 1946). There is no Iowa specimen extant.

Wilson, B. L. 1988. Records of Ferruginous Hawk in Iowa. Iowa Bird Life 58:95-100. (cont)

83-FH
93-MH

Ferruginous Hawk Records for Iowa Through 1987

Date	County	Reference	Comment
25 Jun 1901	Black Hawk	DuMont 1933	specimen lost?
before 1907	Linn	Anderson 1907	detail, Clark-
4 Nov 1914	Wapello	Spiker 1924	dead bird, no detail
17 Sep 1917	Woodbury	Stephens 1918	mounted, no detail
2 Apr 1919	Keokuk	DuMont 1933	2, no detail
7 Dec 1919	Story	Stoner 1920	specimen, no detail
3 Oct 1921	Woodbury	Stephens 1930	mounted dark female
23 Nov 1921	Plymouth	Stephens 1930	mounted female
28 Mar 1923	Keokuk	DuMont 1933	2, no detail
17 Mar 1926	Buchanan	Pierce 1930	no detail
6 Jun 1929	Polk	DuMont 1929	2, detail, Clark-
13 Apr 1930	Buchanan	Pierce 1930	no detail
29 Mar 1934	Dallas-Perry	DuMont 1934	2, detail, Clark-
29 Mar 1934	Dallas-Long Pond	DuMont 1934	2, no detail
9 Apr 1934	Dickinson	DuMont 1934	detail, Clark-
11 Apr 1934	Clay	DuMont 1934	no detail
17 Apr 1934	Emmet	DuMont 1934	detail, Clark-
20 Mar 1936	Woodbury	Stiles 1946	no detail
21 Aug 1936	Iowa	Univ. IA specimen 29674	See photos
2 Jan 1939	Johnson	Johnson 1939	3, detail, Clark-
13 May 1946	Dickinson/Emmet	Musgrove et al. 1947	no detail
8 Sep 1946	Polk	Stiles 1946	no detail
1 Oct 1951	Fremont	Brown 1971	no detail
31 Dec 1954	Grundy	IBL 25:10	detail, Clark+
3 Nov 1962	Adair	Petersen 1962	detail, Clark-
1963	Marshall	IBL 34:10	no detail
1963	Cherokee	IBL 34:20	no detail
26 Dec 1966	Bremer	IBL 37:6	no detail
26 Dec 1970	Page	IBL 41:13	detail, Clark-
17 Dec 1972	Story	IBL 43:4	no detail
28 Oct 1973	Page	IBL 43:104	7, detail, Clark+
28 Dec 1974	Bremer	IBL 45:8	no detail
Feb 1977	Lucas	Roosa and Bartlett 1977	no detail
27 Oct 1977	Pocahontas	Gilmer et al. 1985	road kill, banded
27 Oct 1977	Page	doc, IBL 47:144	
Feb 1978	Harrison	IBL 48:70	detail, Clark-
3,7 Feb 1979	Johnson/Iowa	doc (2), IBL 49:24	Clark-
26 Dec 1980	Fremont	doc, IBL 52:42	RC(80-27)-, Clark-
26 Oct 1983	Page	doc, IBL 54:38	RC(83-31)+, Clark+
22 Sep 1984	Marshall	doc, IBL 55:58	RC(84-24)+, Clark+
25 Oct 1984	Pocahontas	doc (2), IBL 55:58	RC(84-23)-, Clark+
23 Dec 1984	Tama	doc, IBL 55:58	RC(84-34)-
28 Mar 1985	Cherokee	doc, IBL 56:44	RC(85-03)-
29 Sep 1985	Story	doc, IBL 86:44	RC(85-16)-, Clark+
1 Feb 1986	Appanoose	doc, IBL 57:78	RC(86-06)-

IBL citations are for Field Reports, Christmas Bird Counts, Bird Banding Summaries, and Records Committee Reports in Iowa Bird Life; doc = documentation on file with Records Committee; no detail = no description of the bird; RC() = Records Committee (record number); Clark = William S. Clark; + = accepted record; - = record not accepted.

Reports since 1970 were all from fall and winter (September through February). Most were from October (5), December (5), and February (4), months when this species is expected. Of course, other hawks, including Krider's Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamacensis krideri*), also migrate through and winter in Iowa during these months and may be confused with Ferruginous Hawk.