

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 02/03/94

Ferruginous Hawk

< 1907

Pottawattamie Co., IA

Trostler

Anderson 1907, Bailey 1918

Record Number: 93-GH
Classification: NA

REFERENCES

Anderson 1907

Bailey 1918

VOTE: 5 NA

NA, No specific record cited by Trostler./thk

Ferruginous Hawk

151. (347a). *Archibutea ferrugineus* (Licht.). Ferrugineous Rough-leg.

The Ferrugineous Rough-leg occurs occasionally in Iowa during the migrations. It is a bird of the western United States, occasionally straggling east to Iowa or even to Illinois and Wisconsin. Major Bendire states (Life Hist. of N. A. Birds, 259-60) that it "has been reported as nesting near Grinnell, but the record has not been fully verified." Mr. Lynds Jones says of this: "I know nothing about the Ferruginous Rough-leg at Grinnell. Bendire concluded that the Grinnell bird must be Ferruginous, and so stated upon his own motion. I always questioned it." In Nebraska it is "the common Rough-legged Hawk in the state, and occurs throughout. It is less common in the eastern portion" (Rev. Bds. Neb., 1904, 52).

County records: Blackhawk—"rare winter visitant; specimen in museum of I. S. N. S." (Walters). Kossuth—"a few seen. I am sure of identity of this species, as it is well known to me" (Bingaman). Linn—"a pair of Ferruginous Rough-legs winter every year at Gordon's grove, Waubeck; have seen them there four different years. They are larger birds than the Swainson, but are white or nearly so below, with feathered legs. Mr. J. W. Preston collected a set of Ferruginous Rough-leg near Newton" (Berry). Pottawattamie—"straggler" (Trostler). Woodbury—"rare; it is not uncommon in the various mounted Hawks seen in the stores of Sioux City. I have never handled a fresh specimen" (Rich).

Anderson 1907
p 252

Bailey, B. H. 1918. The Raptorial Birds of Iowa, Iowa Geological Survey Bull 6
Des Moines pp 139-141

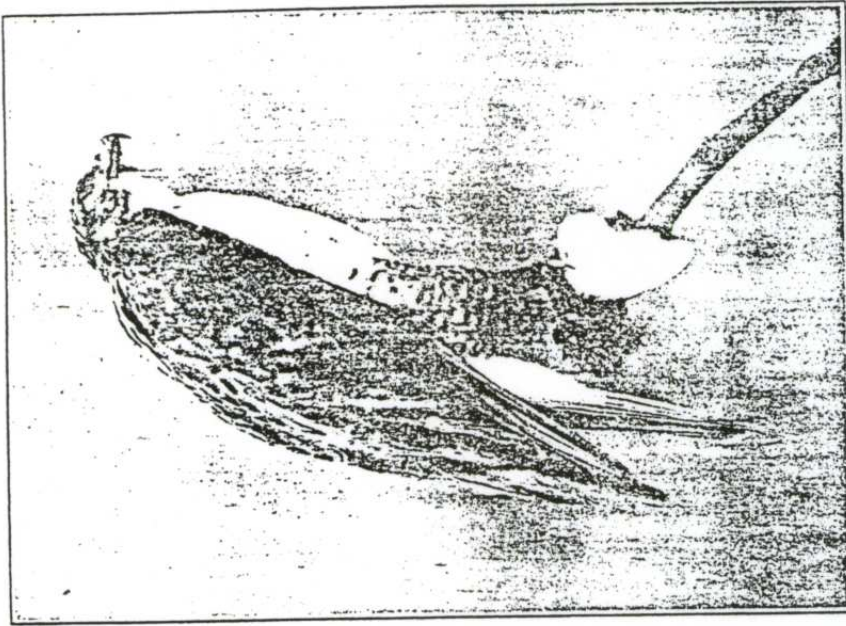


Fig. 55.—Ferruginous Kough-legged Hawk.

Subgenus *Brewsteria* Maynard.

15. *ARCHIBUTEO FERRUGINEUS* (Lichtenstein). 348.

Ferruginous Kough-leg. California Squirrel Hawk.

Field Characters.—A large reddish backed, white breasted hawk. Sluggish as compared with other hawks, and found hunting early and late in open fields.

Description.—Above, rufous, especially on the wings, the centers of the feathers dusky or brownish black; tail ashy white, the feathers edged with tawny. Below, white, with a few reddish streaks on the sides of upper breast and body. Legs sharply contrasting with other parts below, being reddish with numerous black bars, and feathered to the toes.

LIST OF STOMACH CONTENTS

No.	Sex	Locality	Date	Birds	Mammals	Miscellaneous	Notes
1	Male	Iowa	Dec. 27, '14				Empty
2	Female	Osage	Dec. 24, '14		Small mammal		Empty
3	Male	Britt	Nov. 23, '14		Small rodent		Empty
4	Male	Iowa	Nov. 23, '14		Small rodent		Empty
5	Male	Marengo	Nov. 6, '05		2 shrews—3 rodents		Empty
6	Male	Gladbrook	Nov. 10, '05		Several grasshoppers		Empty
7	Male	Boone	Sept. 1, '06		2 large frogs		Empty
8	Male	Iowa	Nov. 10, '05				Empty
9	Male	Casey	Jan. 4, '06				Empty
10	Male	State Center	Nov. 1, '10		2 mice		Empty
11	Male	Iowa	May 1, '07		Hair		
12	Male	Gladbrook	Nov. 13, '05		Several mice		
13	Male	Reinbeck	Nov. 25, '04		2 rodents (mice)		

Measurements.—Length, 22 to 24 inches; wing, 16 to 18 inches; tail, 10 to 11 inches.

Range.—Western United States, wandering casually to Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois.

This large hawk is conspicuously a bird of the open prairies of the west and comes only occasionally into Iowa, though it is sometimes regarded it as the "handsomest of the North American Falconidae." The only specimen which I have ever seen that has been taken in Iowa is in the collection of the State Teachers' College at Cedar Falls.

Several authors have referred to it as nesting near Grinnell, but this record is denied by Mr. Lynds Jones, to whom Captain Bendire erroneously attributed the record. (Anderson, *Birds of Iowa*, p. 252, 1907.)

By those who have watched these birds closely, their flight when soaring at a great height is described as resembling that of the Golden Eagle; and when winnowing the air a short distance above the ground their flight simulates that of the Osprey.

Their food is mostly small mammals such as ground squirrels, field mice, and rabbits, and also reptiles.

Although, because of their infrequent visits to the state they are not an immediate economic factor, they probably play a part in limiting the range of injurious rodents which, unchecked, might reach our borders.

Archibuteo ferrugineus (Lichtenstein).

*Cones, E., Key to North American Birds, 3d Edition, p. 551, 1887.

*Jones, L., and Parker, H. W., in W. W. Cooke's Report on the Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley, 1884-85: U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Economic Ornithology, Bull. 2, p. 117. (Grinnell.)

Kidgway, R., Ornithology of Illinois, p. 481, 1889.

*Goss, N. S., History of the Birds of Kansas, p. 271, 1881.

*Kelsey, Carl, Birds of Poweshiek County, Iowa: Ornithologist and Geologist, Vol. 16, p. 132, 1891.

*Cones, E., Key to North American Birds, 4th Edition, p. 551, 1892.

Hatch, Dr. P. L., Birds of Minnesota, p. 194, 1892.

*Bendire, Capt. Chas., Life Histories of North American Birds, Vol. 1, p. 259, 1892.

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Halley, B. H., Two Hundred Wild Birds of Iowa, p. 67, 1906.

Widmann, Otto, A Preliminary Catalogue of the Birds of Missouri: Trans. Acad. Sci., St. Louis, pp. 99-100, 1907.

Anderson, R. M., Birds of Iowa, p. 252, 1907.

Cory, C. B., Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin, p. 469, 1909.

A. O. U. Check List, p. 161, 1910.

Chapman, F. M., Birds of Eastern North America, p. 300, 1912.

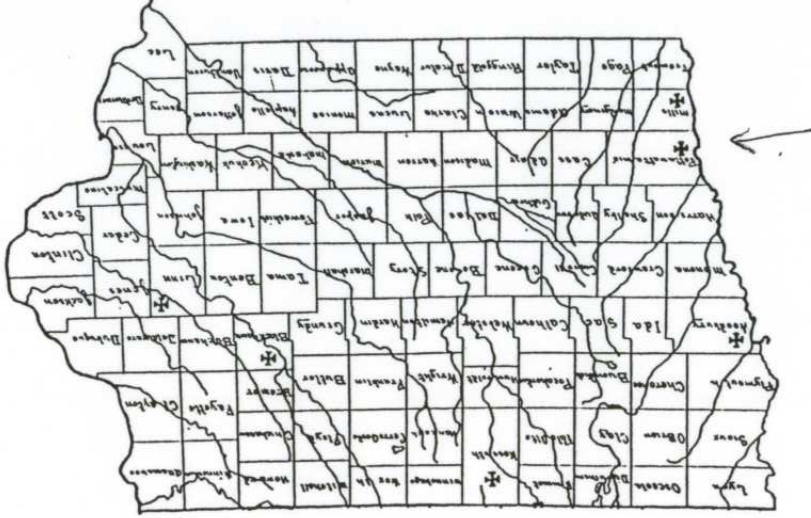


Fig. 56.—Map showing the distribution in Iowa of the Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk.