

Ferruginous Hawk  
< 1918  
unknown, Mills Co., IA  
unknown  
Bailey 1918

Record Number: 93-GN  
Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Bailey, B. H. 1918. The Raptorial Birds of Iowa. Iowa Geological Survey Bull. 6, Des Moines. pp 139-140.

VOTE: 5 NA

NA, This record appears on Bailey's map of Ferruginous Hawk records. It is unclear where Bailey got this record. In spite of of DuMont (1933) attributing Bailey's records to Anderson (1907), I do not see any reference to Mills County in Anderson's account./thk



*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 taken east of the Mississippi. Dr. Elliott Coues is said to have 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).

\*Coues, B., Key to North American Birds, 3d Edition, p. 551, 1887.

\*Jones, T., 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.)

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

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

\*Coues, B., Key to North American Birds, 4th Edition, p. 551, 1892.

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

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Keyes, Charles Reuben, The Iowan Raptors: The Iowa Ornithologist, Vol. 3, No. 2, p. 17, April, 1897.

Halley, H. H., Two Hundred Wild Birds of Iowa, p. 62, 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. 262, 1907.

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

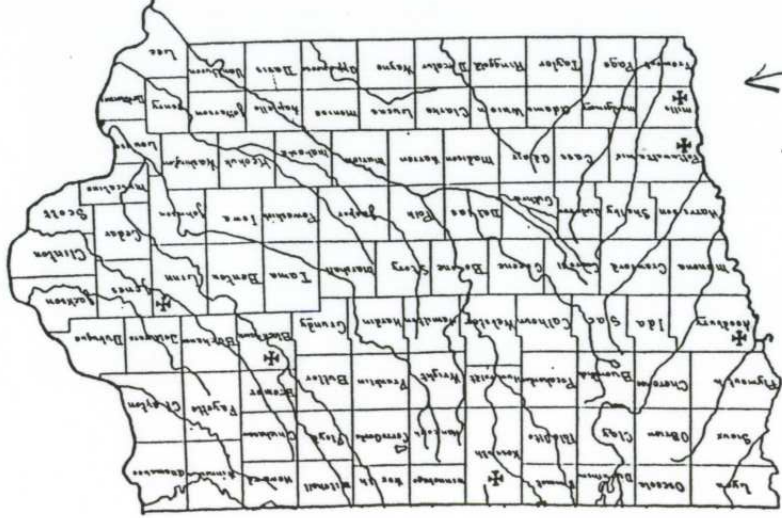


Fig. 56.—Map showing the distribution in Iowa of the Ferruginous Hough-legged Hawk.