

Ferruginous Hawk  
28 Mar 1985  
Cherokee Co., IA  
\*Marion Brewer  
IBL 55:62; 56:44

Record Number: 85-03  
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Marion Brewer

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 55:62  
Records Committee: IBL 56:44

VOTE: 1-III, 4-IV, 2-V

IV, No real diagnostic characteristic mentioned.

IV, I assume that the rufous colored legs were seen while the bird was on the ground. They are best determined in flight. Why wasn't rufous seen on the wing and body? If the bird was seen from behind, why weren't the white wing patches seen?

V, Not enough detail to convince me.

IV, Very possibly a correct ID, however, no mention of dorsal wing patches was made, or flight pattern and "the dark brown upper parts" may be needs more detailing.

III, If by "red legs" the observer was indicating the feathered tarsus then the observation sounds like an authentic Ferruginous sighting.

V, Possibly a Ferruginous, but description lacks important information such as pattern of wings, head and body feathering and coloration. Redtails may have some rufous feathering on legs.

IV, Only good field mark is leg color. Writer seems unfamiliar with the field marks of this species. Could have seen but didn't write about pattern of upper side of wings. Redtails don't normally have horizontal barring on belly. (If dark legs alone is a sufficient field mark for Ferruginous, then this is OK. lets research and then re-review all the recent documentations.)

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation  
 by the Records Committee  
 of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: Ferruginous Hawk

DATE SEEN: 28 March 1985

SITE OF OBSERVATION: Cherokee County

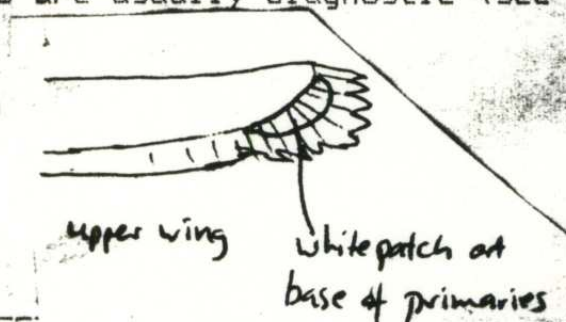
OBSERVERS: Marion Brewer

DATE OF REVIEW: October 1985

METHOD OF REVIEW: Committee discussion

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: V

COMMENTS: It is generally agreed that to clinch ID of this species in Iowa the white wing patches must be seen and described. The Committee is currently attempting to clarify the criteria for Ferruginous Hawk ID in Iowa, especially immatures, which can be difficult to separate from Red-tails. The wing-patches are usually diagnostic (see diagram).



The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I: labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II: acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III: acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV: probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V: record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI: probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record.

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven Committee members.

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa 85-B

What species? Ferruginous Hawk How many? oneLocation? RR Hwy 7 & M 31 (e. of Cherokee in E Cherokee Co/ Ia)Type of habitat? Bean ground with some water ways (grass)When? date(s): March 28 1985 time: 4:40pm to 1:45 pmWho? your name and address: Marion M. Brewer RR# 2 Cherokee, Ia 51012

others with you: \_\_\_\_\_

others before or after you: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Redtailed hawk sized buteo, dark brown upper parts (head, back and wings) light reddish upper tail. Light colored under parts, with light streaking on sides of belly. Med. ~~ru~~ rufous colored legs. Perched on the bean ground. It flushed ~~over~~ three times, each time flying about 100 yards returning to the ground. Always away from me so that I never got to see the under parts of the wings.

Similar species and how eliminated: Redtailed hawk, no horizontal streaking on the belly and the rufous colored legs\*

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Clear day with sun to my back, viewed with 15 to 15 power scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

References and persons consulted before writing description:

over 15 years of hunting in Wyoming  
Peterson, golden, and Audubon field guidesHow long before field notes made? 2 hours this form completed? 3-28-1985

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