

Ferruginous Hawk  
5 Apr 1992  
Ames, Story Co., IA  
\*Arbour  
IBL 62:76, 63:70

Record Number: 92-15  
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

David Arbour, 1026 Hancock Dr. #14, Boone, IA 50036 (6/30/93)

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 62:76  
Records Committee: IBL 63:70

VOTE: 1 A-D, 6 NA

NA, Document lacks several identifying points to eliminate all other raptors. Does not rule out a Krider's red tail. More description of wing shape and angle needed.

NA, Description of plumage, behavior, and size support identification of Ferruginous Hawk. No mention, however, of dark leggings, mantle, and upperwings. I reluctantly vote NA but am willing to listen to additional arguments.

NA, This record is very possibly correct. Habitat is right and the date falls within expected range. Perception of longer wings compared to Red-tail is also supportive. Unfortunately, and I hope the observer realizes this, this is one of the most intractable problems in Iowa field identification. In this case, the whitish head and absence of belly band can also apply to Krider's Red-tail. It is unfortunate that the observer was unable to see feathered tarsus, rufous in back (assuming bird was an adult), and dark "leggings."

NA, I am voting NA on this sighting because I cannot be certain this bird was not a Krider's Red-tail. The observer did not describe either the reddish leggings or red shoulders which are both diagnostic field marks of Ferruginous Hawk. The white crescents at the base of the primaries on the upper wing were noted and are diagnostic. Although I am not convinced this bird was not a Ferruginous Hawk the details are not strong enough to vote AD on this accidental Iowa raptor.

NA, None of the marks are inconsistent with a light red-tail. Mostly whitish tail -- gray or lightly banded? Light head -- fits Krider's, Ferruginous has light streaks on head. White crescents on upper wing -- also seen on some red-tails, especially light ones. Large size and long wings -- very subjective, need more details on wing shape. Landing in tree and soaring high -- Ferruginous often lands on ground. Lack of rust in tail, back, upper wing, and leggings excludes adult Ferruginous. More specific features (which all require a good close look) include large black spots on upper tail coverts, white or flecked tarsal feathers, dark area on sides near legs, wide gape, lack of patagial stripe.

NA, What other color was in the tail and where was the color located? White crescents sounds good for Ferruginous Hawk but some white rectangle windows in Red-tailed Hawks are elongated at one end or the other and could look like an abbreviated crescent. No mention made of color of patagial area which needs to be covered

in any Ferruginous Hawk record. Also no mention of color of feathering on upper leg area. If this bird looked like the bird on page 188 of Pete Dunn's Hawks in Flight then these should have been noted. Size and shape of head not noted. Red-tailed Hawk can be extremely white underneath and can have a very white tail also, usually in conjunction with a light colored head (but not always). What was color of upper surface of bird? With the information given in the documentation I cannot say with enough certainty that this was a Ferruginous Hawk.

A-D, I wish more details had been provided. Was the patagial mark absent or present? But I feel the key marks for an immature Ferruginous Hawk were seen and described -- the white crescents near base of primaries on upper side of wing, long wings, large size, uniform white underneath, whitish head and tail, and a similar-looking photo mentioned in Hawks in Flight.

What species? Ferruginous Hawk (imm.) How many? One 92-15Location? At the intersection of I-35 and E29 (~~XXXXXX~~) just N.E. of Ames.Type of habitat? Flat Farmland/RoadsideWhen? date(s): 05 APR 92 time: Observed for approximately 10 minutes to during mid-morningWho? your name and address: David Arbour 1026 Hancock Dr., Boone, IA. 50036 Apt.#14others with you: Matt Humann, Harold Harbert, and Yumann Lee,others before or after you: None

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.

Mostly whitish tail; very light whitish head; white crescents near base of primaries on ~~top~~ upper side of wing. Uniform white underneath (No belly band). Large size; long wings (appeared larger and longer winged than a Red-tailed Hawk). Our bird appeared identical to the individual pictured at the bottom of page 188 in Pete Dunne's book, Hawks in Flight. First seen flying low over field at approximately 75-100 yards from us. Then it flew to a tree and sat in it for about 5 minutes at a distance of about 200 yards from us (during which time we observed it through a scope). Then it soared high into the sky until it disappeared heading north.

Similar species and how eliminated: Red-tailed Hawk lacks the white crescent near the base of primaries and is smaller and shorter winged; Rough-legged Hawk has a dark belly band and a subterminal band on tail.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

(Distance was estimated) Sun was behind us so lighting was very good. The bird was first seen flying at a distance of 75-100 yards from us. Then he was observed sitting in a tree approximately 200 yds from us. Optical equipment: 8.5X44 Audubon Swift Binoculars; 25X Bushnell Spotting Scope. Previous experience with species and similar ones:

References and persons consulted before writing description: Hawks in Flight by Pete Dunne, et al. HAWKS (Peterson Field Guide) by Clark + Wheeler. National Geographic Field Guide to the birds, Peterson Field Guide-east

How long before field notes made? 10 minutes this form completed? 13 days

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