

Ferruginous Hawk  
29 Apr 1989  
1 w. of Conesville, Louisa Co., IA  
\*P. Petersen  
IBL 59:81, 61:85

Record Number: 89-14  
Classification: NA

## DOCUMENTATION

Peter C. Petersen

## REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 59:81  
Records Committee: IBL 61:85

## VOTE 1 A-D, 6 NA

NA. Very suggestive, but not very detailed description. What was location and shape of "primary patch"? Faint wrist comma mark was mentioned but what did patagial area look like? Many of the features noted sound very much like Ferruginous Hawk but there is very little description of the rest of the bird. Again, this is a good observer and reasonable description but brevity of documentation makes one wonder how well bird was seen and this is a species that should be seen and described well.

NA. Tough call. While this record could be correct and despite the experience of the observer, the details are thin. The absence or presence of the patagial area was not mentioned, although this is not necessarily diagnostic. White primary patch was observed, but not described. Finally, hovering can be consistent with Ferruginous (but rare: Wilson, IBL 56:4), however, any raptor can give appearance of hovering when hunting into wind. Wind speed and direction not noted, so no way to judge.

A-D. I can find nothing in this description that does not support Ferruginous.

NA. I think all the features described could just as easily fit a Rough-legged Hawk. A better description of "primary patches" would have helped.

NA. Description is suggestive--white below, dark above with white in primaries. Wing shape could have been described in detail. Should have white at base of tail. I saw bird in this area at about the same time, but was too far away to identify it. I wish I had made notes. Why didn't the other observers document this bird?

NA. Several things bother me about this sighting. White primary patch mentioned but not location of this white patch or its shape. Shape of this patch very important. Lightness or darkness of patagium not specifically mentioned. Body shape not mentioned. Attitude of wings not noted. I cannot say for sure that this is a Ferruginous Hawk. Not enough details in some key areas.

SENT TO: Peter C. Petersen, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, IA  
52803 [8/7/89]

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

89-14

What species? Ferruginous Hawk - imm How many? 1

Location? 1 mi W. Conesville, edge of Muscatine Louise Cos. IA

Type of Habitat? cultivated fields

When? date(s): 29 April, 1989 time: 1:45 to 1:50 PM EDT

Who? your name and address: Peter C. Petersen, 235 McClellan Blvd Davenport IA 52801

Others with you: Brian, Corey & Louis Blevins.

Others before or after you: none to our knowledge

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Large buteo, seemed very long winged. From below very light, primary tips dark grey, tail dusky toward tip. upper wing dark brown, white primary patch very noticeable, tail greyish on upper surface but no well-defined terminal band. Back top of head dark brown. wing from below showed a faint dark wrist "comma" mark. Bird not heard. It flew low, then soared up and swooped, hovering twice.

Similar species; how eliminated: Rough-legged Hawk - Underwing would show more dark in the underwing coverts, well defined tail band  
Kriders Red-tail - has a very light head.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? no  
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. Mostly cloudy, bird was in flight, fairly low & covered a great distance back & forth near us during the observation. Bird as close as 100 m. 10x40 binoculars - Zeiss.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen previously in IA & IL, & on several occasions in South Dakota & Nebraska

References and persons consulted before writing description: Geo guide, Hawks Fig. by Clark & Clark

How long before field notes made? 10 min. this form completed? 7 hrs.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).