

Ferruginous Hawk

3 Feb 1979

near Oxford & Homestead, Iowa Co., Johnson Co., IA

*R. Hollis, *C. Bendorf

also 02/04, 02/07; IBL 49:24, Wilson 1988

Record Number: 93-HU

Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATIONS

Richard Jule Hollis, 3-4 Feb

Carl J. Bendorf, 7 Feb

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 49:24

Wilson 1988

VOTE: 5 NA

NA, Bill Clark reviewed this record for Barb Wilson and did not accept it. He rated it "V" on the field report and "IV Ad." on both documentations. I am inclined to think that it was a variation on a Red-tailed Hawk./thk

NA, I see little that eliminates a pale Red-tailed Hawk. /wrs

93-H4

Halmi, N. S. 1979. Field reports. Iowa Bird Life 49:23-26 (p 24)

Rough-legged Hawks were "almost common" at Cherokee (DB), and apparently widespread in smaller numbers. A buteo repeatedly observed near the Amanas in early February was diagnosed as an immature *Ferruginous Hawk (CB,RH). Golden Eagles include one on the Davenport CBC (December 17, PP), 3 seen in the

93-Hu
~~8701~~

Wilson, B. L. 1988. Records of Ferruginous Hawk in Iowa. Iowa Bird Life 58:95-100. (cont)

Ferruginous Hawk Records for Iowa Through 1987

Date	County	Reference	Comment
25 Jun 1901	Black Hawk	DuMont 1933	specimen lost?
before 1907	Linn	Anderson 1907	detail, Clark-
4 Nov 1914	Wapello	Spiker 1924	dead bird, no detail
17 Sep 1917	Woodbury	Stephens 1918	mounted, no detail
2 Apr 1919	Keokuk	DuMont 1933	2, no detail
7 Dec 1919	Story	Stoner 1920	specimen, no detail
3 Oct 1921	Woodbury	Stephens 1930	mounted dark female
23 Nov 1921	Plymouth	Stephens 1930	mounted female
28 Mar 1923	Keokuk	DuMont 1933	2, no detail
17 Mar 1926	Buchanan	Pierce 1930	no detail
6 Jun 1929	Polk	DuMont 1929	2, detail, Clark-
13 Apr 1930	Buchanan	Pierce 1930	no detail
29 Mar 1934	Dallas-Perry	DuMont 1934	2, detail, Clark-
29 Mar 1934	Dallas-Long Pond	DuMont 1934	2, no detail
9 Apr 1934	Dickinson	DuMont 1934	detail, Clark-
11 Apr 1934	Clay	DuMont 1934	no detail
17 Apr 1934	Emmet	DuMont 1934	detail, Clark-
20 Mar 1936	Woodbury	Stiles 1946	no detail
21 Aug 1936	Iowa	Univ. IA specimen 29674	See photos
2 Jan 1939	Johnson	Johnson 1939	3, detail, Clark-
13 May 1946	Dickinson/Emmet	Musgrove et al. 1947	no detail
8 Sep 1946	Polk	Stiles 1946	no detail
1 Oct 1951	Fremont	Brown 1971	no detail
31 Dec 1954	Grundy	IBL 25:10	detail, Clark+
3 Nov 1962	Adair	Petersen 1962	detail, Clark-
1963	Marshall	IBL 34:10	no detail
1963	Cherokee	IBL 34:20	no detail
26 Dec 1966	Bremer	IBL 37:6	no detail
26 Dec 1970	Page	IBL 41:13	detail, Clark-
17 Dec 1972	Story	IBL 43:4	no detail
28 Oct 1973	Page	IBL 43:104	7, detail, Clark+
28 Dec 1974	Bremer	IBL 45:8	no detail
Feb 1977	Lucas	Roosa and Bartlett 1977	no detail
27 Oct 1977	Pocahontas	Gilmer et al. 1985	road kill, banded
27 Oct 1977	Page	doc, IBL 47:144	
Feb 1978	Harrison	IBL 48:70	detail, Clark-
3,7 Feb 1979	Johnson/Iowa	doc (2), IBL 49:24	Clark-
26 Dec 1980	Fremont	doc, IBL 52:42	RC(80-27)-, Clark-
26 Oct 1983	Page	doc, IBL 54:38	RC(83-31)+, Clark+
22 Sep 1984	Marshall	doc, IBL 55:58	RC(84-24)+, Clark+
25 Oct 1984	Pocahontas	doc (2), IBL 55:58	RC(84-23)-, Clark+
23 Dec 1984	Tama	doc, IBL 55:58	RC(84-34)-
28 Mar 1985	Cherokee	doc, IBL 56:44	RC(85-03)-
29 Sep 1985	Story	doc, IBL 86:44	RC(85-16)-, Clark+
1 Feb 1986	Appanoose	doc, IBL 57:78	RC(86-06)-

IBL citations are for Field Reports, Christmas Bird Counts, Bird Banding Summaries, and Records Committee Reports in Iowa Bird Life; doc = documentation on file with Records Committee; no detail = no description of the bird; RC() = Records Committee (record number); Clark = William S. Clark; + = accepted record; - = record not accepted.

Reports since 1970 were all from fall and winter (September through February). Most were from October (5), December (5), and February (4), months when this species is expected. Of course, other hawks, including Krider's Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamacensis krideri*), also migrate through and winter in Iowa during these months and may be confused with Ferruginous Hawk.

3+4. On both the 3rd + 4th the bird spoke + flew off to the WNW (and out of sight). On both occasions, approximately 3/4 mile away (to the NE) a bird was seen (also perching). On the 3rd we observed it well enough to convince ourselves that it was the same bird. On the 4th a snow drift prevent me from approaching, close enough to say of anything beyond the fact that there was a large white bird approximately 1/2 mile away.

6. Top of tail was a rich red. At the base was a white band/patch across the width of the tail, approx. 1/3 - 1/2 of the length of the tail.

16. My wife is not a bird watcher, so her observation ^{may} mean little. She said she noticed the legs being darker than the body. Carl + I first diagnosed the bird as a pale, 'funny', Red Tail. I was not very happy about it, but I didn't know what else to call it, as we had not seen the white at the base of the upper side of the tail. After worrying about it most of the evening I persevered dig through all the books + realized that it looked a lot like a Ferrug. and that Petersen's *Fauna* list 3 observations in the Quad Cities - 1 on 12/20/20. I believe that I communicated this to Carl on Sunday along with the details (with some) from 2/4. I am not sure he is yet convinced that I am correct, but he ~~is~~ is not firm in saying I am wrong. (He just doesn't know - not having personally seen the white on the upper tail.) Carl has never gotten a very good look at a Ferrug.)

7. As of the date I know none. Tom Shires + Tom Kent saw what they identified as a pale Red Tail on the morning of the 3rd in this general area. See below

8. This was indeed a Ferruginous Hawk. The tail was like pictured in Robin - white ~~and~~ underneath + red on the top. Although I felt that the white patch on the tail was higher than pictured. Robin mentions the lack of contrast: legs vs. belly in immatures.

The description in Roberts (quote follows) convinced me that my failure to note the 'pantaloon' did not indicate that this was a pale (Kricler-like) Red Tail. ^{birds} ^{under-} the legs + thighs are nearly immaculate white, like the rest of the underparts" p 525. Roberts also points out that most of the ^{Ferrug} ~~birds~~ seen in Minn are immatures.

7. Cont. This FF was added 11 Feb. On last Wednesday Carl Bendorf saw a bird he identified as a Ferruginous, near Homestead. On last Thursday Cal Knight saw a bird he said was a Ferruginous. Cal saw the contrast of the leg w. the body (this information comes from Cal via Milo Newton.) Carl said he did not notice the pantaloon but did observe the ^{under-} wings as being plain white except for the dark tips of the primaries.

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

Species Ferruginous Hawk *see RH - not 100%* 2. Number: 1

Location Northeast corner of Iowa County--1/4 mile east of Homestead, IA.

Date: Feb., 7, 1979 5. Time Bird seen: 3:00PM to 3:10PM

Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

Large buteo with brownish back and head with the head somewhat lighter in contrast to the back. Top surface of tail was rust in color at the tip with a distinct area of white at the base of the tail. The pattern of rust and white was much like the distribution of black and white on the tail of a Rough Legged Hawk. Very clear white throat, breast and belly. Very faint and slight black flecking on the upper chest. Underside surface of tail was white with no trace of color even in direct light. Under surface of the wings were basically, with the only color being black at the tips of the primaries.

Description of voice, if heard:
not heard

Description of behavior: bird was perching in tree at a side view to me. When I got out of car it flew to a nearby tree presenting a view of its underside.

Habitat - general: It landed momentarily and then flew out of sight.
specific: Perched in open in dead tree at edge of deciduous woodland and a small pasture.

Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
see back side

Distance (how measured)? estimated 50-75 yards 12. Optical equipment:
7X binoculars

Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
sky was clear and sunny with sun at my back as I faced bird.

Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Have seen numerous Red Tails and Rough Legs. One Ferruginous Hawk seen in Colorado last summer.

Other observers:
none

Did the others agree with your identification?
not applicable

Other observers who independently identified this bird:
see back side

Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
see back side

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
six hours 825 7th Ave.

Signature Carl J Bendorf Address: Iowa City, IA. 52240
Date: 2-11-79 City, State: _____

10. The most reasonable alternative identification would be an odd plumaged Red Tail. But this bird had no hint of a belly band and the underside of the tail was very white. In addition there were no dark traces on the underside of the wings except at the very tips of the primaries. Furthermore, this bird had a large white patch at the base of the tail. None of these seem to be compatible with a Red Tail. My general impression was that this bird was somewhat larger than the average Red Tail but this is certainly not a conclusive mark. See below

The Rough Legged Hawk must be eliminated by the presence of the white belly and breast, white underside of the wings, and the rust area on the top surface of the tail.

17. On Feb. 3, Rick Hollis and I saw a bird that we passed off as a very pale Red Tail because it didn't have any belly band, the underside of the tail was white, the head was pale and there was white on the upper tail. This was within a mile of the bird described in this form. Rick went out on Feb. 4, for another look and found this odd "Red Tail" in the same place as the day before and after some study he concluded it was a Ferruginous.

On either Feb. 8 or 9, Cal Knight saw what he identified as a Ferruginous Hawk on the south side of Kent Park which is about 10 miles east of my sighting on Feb. 7.

18. Robbins, et. al., confirmed the basic field marks that I saw. His illustration of the light phase Ferruginous shows the same amount of rust and white on the upper surface of the tail that I saw as well as the very clear breast and underside of the wings.

Peterson (western) The perching illustration in this guide is extremely close to what I observed. The other basic marks also concur with my observation.

Both Robbins and Peterson make mention of the darker legs in contrast with the belly especially in flight. I did not note such a contrast. However, the time that the presented a view to me in flight, I concentrated on the white underside of the wings and tail and unfortunately I did not pay special attention to the legs. Thus I did not see one of the good field marks but I can't ~~XXXXXX~~ say that this mark was not present. Both guides state that this contrast is not present in the immature bird and as Peterson says, "A good mark in typical adults overhead is a dark V formed by the dark rusty feathers on the legs." He seems to be indicating that there are atypical adults in which the legs are not darker in color. I may not have seen this mark simply because I failed to look closely for it as I concentrated on other parts of the bird.

10. (Continued) The absence of belly band and white on the tail might point toward a leucis Red Tail. But the back of the bird was not pale but rather was rich brown in color and the rust that was on the tail was also a rich fall shade. Thus the coloration was not a pale version of a red tail, rather it had different color patterns of a fall rich hue.