

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 02/03/94

Ferruginous Hawk
Feb 1977
Lucas Co., IA

Record Number: 93-HQ
Classification: NA

Roosa and Bartlett 1977

REFERENCES

Roosa and Bartlett 1977
Wilson 1988

VOTE: 5 NA

NA, no detail according to Wilson. This was in Roosa's 1977
raptor survey report. I do not have a copy of it./thk

NA, (copy attached) -- no details provided. /wrs

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

~~93-110~~
93-110

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 jamaicensis krideri*), also migrate through and winter in Iowa during these months and may be confused with Ferruginous Hawk.

93-HQ

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

List of Participants

Winter Raptor Populations in Iowa

Topography of the State

Summary of 1977 Winter Raptor Survey

TABLE I. Results of **WINTER RAPTOR SURVEY - 1977**

Fig. 1 Location of Townships

Fig. 2 Number and Distribution of Raptors

Fig. 3 Number and Distribution of Raptors
Dean M. Roosa, Ecologist

Fig. 4 Number and Distribution of Raptors
State Preserves Advisory Board

Fig. 5 Location of Raptor
Des Moines, Iowa

Field Raptor Survey

TABLE II. Habitat Utilization
Paul Bartelt

Field Forms
Boone, Iowa

Report of the State Preserves Board
December, 1977

93-410

RAPTOR SURVEY - 1978

The second winter raptor survey will be conducted between Jan 14th and February 19th. This provides six weekends, for maximum opportunity for participation.

Area covered. A township seems to be a desirable area to be covered. It simplifies record-keeping, can ordinarily be covered by a participant in less than a day and a large portion can be surveyed from a car. Hopefully, we can cover all the townships covered last year.

Habitat: The more information on habitat given, the more complete can be a correlation between species and their habitat requirements. If you can sketch habitats on a map or figure percentages of each habitat in the township, it will be helpful. Probably the best approach is to obtain a 7.5 minute quadrangle map and mark habitats on it. These maps have wooded areas already marked in green, but some are very old. I have maps of most townships covered last year on file and will attempt to obtain others. If you can make estimates on the habitat on other townships or your county, perhaps we can arrive at some population estimate.

Weather: Winds should be low, preferably below 10-15 mph. Rainy, snowed or foggy days should be avoided as hawks perch in protected areas on these days. Overcast days aren't totally bad, but are often accompanied by a low pressure system when raptors are less active. Clear days are probably best, but would like comments on this. Extremely low temperatures are not recommended, but mainly for the comfort of observer. Remember, hawks need to eat more during periods of low temperatures and thus have to forage more.

Starting time: The opinion of observers from the last survey was the earlier in the day the survey is started, the better. Hawks have an early surge of feeding activity, shortly after sunrise.

Species to record: Record all raptors, their activity, habitat, plumage variation, age (if determined - i.e. adult or immature), time of day, weather, etc. Also, record observations of any unusual species of birds.

Personnel: I have found two or more observers are highly favored over a single observer, especially if the single observer must also drive. A second person to help with habitat evaluation would probably help.

Parts of the state needing observers: Large portions of the state are going un-surveyed. Especially far southern Iowa and the loess hills of western Iowa, both prime raptor habitats, need additional observers.

Some townships will require some walking; it is surprising how inconspicuous raptors can be in wooded areas. Accipiters do not perch on woodland edges and don't have the bright white breast like Red-tails. Most are seen by walking.

Unusual species: Last year Lloyd and Gay Crim recorded two Ferruginous Hawks. Who is going to out-do them, say, with a Gyrfalcon?

There are some unusual raptors about. Ross Silcock recorded a Prairie Falcon in November in Fremont County. Darwin Koenig and Joe Schaufenbuel have seen several Golden Eagles in northeast Iowa.

Exciting? You bet. Good luck.

SUMMARY OF 1977 IOWA WINTER RAPTOR SURVEY

The first of planned annual statewide winter raptor surveys was met with enthusiasm by more than 50 amateur and professional Iowa birders. The data reported by these birders were good, although uniformity of reports is needed since the individual methods of reporting varied widely from vague narrative description of a survey to well drawn and colored habitat maps with each raptor sighting mapped. A standardized field form will be presented at the end of this report.

Reports were received from 36 townships in 25 counties and seven breeding bird census routes (Numbers 006, 007, 013, 014, 029, 030 and 034). Breeding Bird Route locations are shown in Figure 5. One township was surveyed in each of 22 counties, two townships were surveyed in each of two counties, three townships were surveyed in Marion County and eight townships were surveyed in Story County.

Figure 1 maps the distribution of the survey reports. Over half were received from central and northeast Iowa, five from northwest Iowa, seven from south central Iowa, and one each from the southwest and southeast corners.

In all, 230 raptors (208 hawks and 22 owls) were observed in the statewide survey. Counties reporting the greatest number of raptors were Winneshiek, Fayette, and Black Hawk in the northeast, Marion, Lucas and Madison in south central, Fremont in the southwest, and Monona in west central (Figure 2).

Although a greater number of townships surveyed per county would seemingly yield more raptors per county, very little relationship occurs between Figures 1 and 2. There is also little apparent relationship between raptor numbers and weather conditions among those reports which noted weather conditions. Not that raptors are unresponsive to weather, but the important factor in the numbers and distribution of winter raptors in Iowa is habitat; those counties reporting the greatest number of raptors have greater amounts of trees, water, and corresponding edge habitat.

Other factors possibly affecting raptor numbers and distribution according to the survey are: (1) the number of observers surveying a township, (2) the thoroughness or speed at which a township is surveyed, and (3) the capability of the individual observers.

The total number of raptors observed statewide is broken down by species and township in Table 1. Diurnal birds of prey comprised 90% of the total 230 observations, while the more nocturnal owls comprised the remaining 10%; one shrike was observed in Story County. Red-tailed Hawks numbered 130 of the total 208 hawks recorded. About 60% of these were adults, many of which were observed in pairs and were probably residents of those areas. Only 4% were immature, since most immature Red-tails migrate south; the age of the remaining 36% was unnoticed or not recorded.

American Kestrels were the second most common raptor observed, with most recorded in the northeast and southeast portion of the state.

Rough-legged Hawks were a close third and approximately an equal number of light-phase and dark-phase hawks were observed.

Few other hawks were reported: four Northern Harriers, three in Marion County and one in Appanoose County; one Cooper's Hawk was recorded in Boone County; nine Bald Eagles, four along the Missouri River in Fremont County, one near the Missouri River in Plymouth County, one in the Pella area in Marion County, and three in Allamakee County near the Mississippi River. Wintering Bald Eagles are commonly observed near portions of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers which remain ice-free.

The occurrence of two Ferruginous Hawks in Lucas County was unexpected, since these large buteos are common to the western plains. According to the 1971 Annotated Bird List of Iowa by W. H. Brown, only five previous sightings of the hawk in Iowa exist: Dickinson County in 1946, Polk County in 1946, Fremont County in 1951, Grundy County in 1954, and Adair County in 1962. Only the first of these sightings were in May, the others were in fall or winter.

The Great Horned Owl was the most commonly reported owl and was recorded in eight counties throughout the state. Two Snowy Owls were recorded, one each in Black Hawk and Marion Counties.

The most depauperate counties were Lyon, Wapello, Cherokee and Story. The single report from Cherokee County (Silver township) and five of eight reports from Story County reported observing no raptors. The single reports, each from Lyon and Wapello counties reported one owl and two hawks, respectively. The counties with the greatest variety of raptors (i.e., the greatest numbers of raptor species) were Black Hawk and Marion Counties.

