

Ferruginous Hawk

6 Jun 1929

Brenton's Slough, Polk Co., IA

P. A. DuMont, A. T. Watson, K. R. Nelson

DuMont 1929, 1931, 1932, 1933

Record Number: 93-GU

Classification: NA

REFERENCES

DuMont, P. A. 1929. [no title]. Bull. I.O.U. 7:23.

DuMont, P. A. 1931. Birds of Polk County Iowa. Des Moines Audubon Soc. p 24.

DuMont, P. A. 1932. Notes from central Iowa. Wilson Bull. 44:170-177.

DuMont 1933

Wilson 1988

VOTE: 5 NA

NA, Bill Clark reviewed this record for Barb Wilson and did not accept this record. On the copy of the 1929 reference he marked, "V, no field marks." There is considerable description, but no mention of leg feathers, color of tail (except white base), upper wing, rufous coloration, or large head and bill./thk

NA, Possible case of wishful thinking on a big day? /wrs

DuMont, P. A. 1931. Birds of Polk County Iowa. Des Moines, Des Moines Audubon Society. pp 1-72 (p 24)

FERRUGINOUS ROUGH-LEG, *Buteo regalis* (Gray).

One record only. A pair of these birds were observed at Brenton's Slough, four miles west of Camp Dodge, June 6, 1929 (Watson, Nelson, and DuMont). They were first seen in this same locality by Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Stewart on May 5, 1929. See DuMont, 1929, No. 4.

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DuMont, P. A. 1932. Notes from central Iowa. Wilson Bull 44:170-177.

FERRUGINOUS ROUGH-LEG. *Buteo regalis*. A pair of these hawks was seen at Brenton's Slough, west of Camp Dodge, on May 5, 1929, by Mr. and Mrs. John E. Stewart of Des Moines, and positively identified by us on June 6, 1929. Because of the similarity of this region to the rolling hills of western Nebraska we thought there might be a possibility of their breeding. But a search of the few trees along the stream disclosed no nest. Neither were the birds seen after that date. (See also Bull. Iowa Orn. Union, vii, 1929).

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Buteo regalis (Gray). Ferruginous Rough-leg

An irregular and decidedly uncommon migrant in the western part of the state, rarely straggling into the eastern portion. Bailey (1918) recorded it as occurring in Blackhawk, Linn, Woodbury, Pottawattamie, and Mills counties. No doubt this record was based upon the county records as published by Anderson (1907). The observation of this bird in winter, as reported by Berry in Linn County, may well be discredited, lacking substantiating evidence.

DuMont 1932
pp 51-52

Bennett (1931) recorded it as an uncommon migrant in the Sioux City region. DuMont (1931) recorded that a pair of these birds was observed by Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Stewart at Brenton's Slough, Polk County, May 5, 1929. On June 6, 1929, a pair was seen at the same place by A. T. Watson, K. R. Nelson, and the writer. Nauman reported one seen near Sigourney, Keokuk County, April 2, 1919, and two in the same locality, March 28, 1923. Spiker (1924) recorded one found hanging on a fence, November 4, 1914 in Wapello County. Pierce (1930) observed a single bird on his farm in Buchanan County, March 17 and 19, 1926. Another was seen near Hazelton, in the same county, April 13, 1930.

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6:10

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A female, taken at Cedar Falls, Blackhawk County, June 25, 1901, is in the collection of Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls. Stephens records (1918) that A. J. Anderson of Sioux City mounted one of these birds September 17, 1917 which had been shot at Brown's Lake, Woodbury County. Two other specimens mounted by Anderson were recorded by Stephens (1930). One was a female, taken near Sioux City, October 3, 1921, a very dark specimen; the other, also a female, reported to have been taken near Kingsley, Plymouth County, November 23, 1921.

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Feruginous Hawk

DuMont, P. A. 1929. (no title). Bull IOU 7:23.

On June 6, 1929, Arthur T. Watson, Kenneth Nelson and I covered a good share of Polk county in trying for a "big list". We found a total of 101 species, including such unusual ones as a Holboell's Grebe, an Orange-crowned Warbler (collected), a pair of Mockinbirds and a pair of Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawks. These hawks were seen at Brenton's Slough, 4 miles west of Camp Dodge. They had first been noted by Mr. and Mrs. John E. Stewart of Des Moines on May 5th but no agreement was reached as to their identity. 12

Both birds were well seen and the field marks useful in their identification may be of interest to others. They appeared a little larger than a Red-tailed Hawk, but with a longer tail, more like a Marsh Hawk (not the fan tail of the Bueto's) and white at the base. The broad wings were almost as long as an Ospreys and when flying showed the black tips of the primaries as well as the slightly black axillars. The wing-arc was small (entirely different than the Osprey) and the line of flight very direct. The characteristic "flap three times then a short sail" is diagnostic. The identification of one bird which flew directly over us was determined by a study of the specimens in the Dwight Collection of the American Museum of Natural History. It was an immature female with but little if any color on the legs. The entire tone of color above inspecimens of this age is a dull grayish brown.

We did not record these hawks after June 6th nor did we find any indication of their breeding.

Bailey (Raptorial Birds of Iowa, 1918, p. 141.) records this species from six counties. Three (Woodbury, Pottawattamie and Mills) are along the western edge of the state, Kossuth in the north and Blackhawk and Linn in the north-east.

On June 3, Arthur Watson, Kenneth Nelson and I saw a total of 115 species of birds in Dallas, Boone and Polk counties (2:45 a. m. to 10:00 p. m.). We believe this to be a record for Iowa.

I have found Iowa specimens of the Northern Water Thrush. (*Seiurus m. noveboracensis*) in Dr. Dwight's collection. They were taken at Hillsboro and Burlington. Anderson did not list this species.

I have seen 306 species of birds this year. Had 200 of them by the end of March down in Florida.

Would it not be a good idea through the Bulletin to invite contributions in the line of *additional species* seen within the state of Iowa since Anderson wrote his book in 1907? In that manner, anyone later who might want to bring the material up to date would have the notes in the Bulletin to draw on. Such notes would include the Long-tailed Jaeger Anderson recorded in the Auk shortly after his book was out; the Lazuli Bunting and Lewis Woodpecker at Sioux City, etc.

It might be well to try to get a correct determination on some of the sub-species, such as the Willow Thrush vs. Wilson Thrush; Eastern House Wren vs. Western House Wren; Western Sandpiper vs. Semipalmated Sandpiper, etc. Philip A. DuMont, New York City.

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.