

Rough-legged Hawk  
31 May 1996  
s. of Liscomb, Marshall Co., IA  
\*Mark Proescholdt  
IBL 66:102; 67:81

Record Number: 96-13  
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb 50148 [4/6/97]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:102  
Records Committee: IBL 67:81

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, I have seen Rough-legged Hawk in early June in Pocahontas Co.

A-D, Late record but considering the strange spring, probably not that outrageous.

A-D, I have been fooled by immature Swainson's Hawk at this time of year. Wing-tail lengths unclear from documentation. If the wing projected beyond the tail, that would favor Swainson's. Also, Swainson's immatures tend to be on the ground and tame -- I walked up to one in North Dakota. The head color, belly band, and large amount of white at the base of tail seem to be diagnostic, but the overall description is sketchy considering that the bird was present on two days and could have been flushed. Other details, such as cere color, more detail on head markings, and lack of bands in the tail would have been helpful. Apparently there were other late rough-legs in the Midwest this spring (fide Ken Brock).

A-D, Although late, features seen confirm ID as this species. Not unprecedented in late May, even though a new late record for Iowa.

What species? Rough-legged Hawk How many? 1Location? South of Liscomb - (Marshall County)Type of habitat? Corn field with new corn coming up and large field pondWhen? date(s): May 30 and 31, 1996 time: 5:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. - May 30 - with gap  
8:10 a.m. to 8:11 a.m. - May 31Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148others with you: Beth Proescholdt on May 30others 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.

I spotted this hawk on the way home from work, told Mom, and we returned on May 30. It was a light-phase Roughleg. It was perched near a farm field pond on the ground. It was a big hawk and quite contented on the ground. Diving Red-winged Blackbirds did not bother it at all. It had a creamy-colored head and throat that was light yellowish in color. It was dark brown on its back with some splotchiness. Its creamy-colored head and upper breast had brownish streaks throughout. It had a heavy dark brownish breast band-look and (brownish on belly, I believe). It shook itself a few times and showed its tail. The top side of the tail had a very wide dark terminal tail band (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of its tail) and large white base of its tail. It showed a long tail and wing look projecting behind it as it was perched in the field. It was wonderful! A very late record!

Similar species and how eliminated: where did it come from and where was it going??

I can't think of other buteos it could be with its tail pattern, head coloration, and broad dark band across belly.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NOIf yes, explain: we would have liked to see it fly but it was content on ground. Absolutely certain it was a Rough-legged Hawk

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

Sunny both days and good viewing. 100 yards and 20 yards estimate from two different road views. 22x Scope and 8x30 binocs.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen lots of Rough-legs.References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? 8:00 p.m. or this form completed? May 31, 1996  
so on May 30