

Ferruginous Hawk
25 Jun 1901
Cedar Falls, Black Hawk Co., IA
unknown
Anderson 1907, DuMont 1933

Record Number: 93-GG
Classification: NA

REFERENCES

Anderson 1907
Bailey 1918
DuMont 1933
Wilson 1988

LETTER

Dave Conrads to Barb [Wilson], [ca 1988/thk]

VOTE: 5 NA

NA, It is not clear whether DuMont saw the specimen, although he may have. It is also not clear where he got the date and place, which is not mentioned by Anderson or Bailey and could not be confirmed by Conrads./thk

Anderson 1907
p 252

151. (347a). *Archibutea ferrugineus* (Licht.). Ferruginous Rough-leg.

The Ferruginous Rough-leg occurs occasionally in Iowa during the migrations. It is a bird of the western United States, occasionally straggling east to Iowa or even to Illinois and Wisconsin. Major Bendire states (Life Hist. of N. A. Birds, 259-60) that it "has been reported as nesting near Grinnell, but the record has not been fully verified." Mr. Lynds Jones says of this: "I know nothing about the Ferruginous Rough-leg at Grinnell. Bendire concluded that the Grinnell bird must be Ferruginous, and so stated upon his own motion. I always questioned it." In Nebraska it is "the common Rough-legged Hawk in the state, and occurs throughout. It is less common in the eastern portion" (Rev. Bds. Neb., 1904, 52).

County records: Blackhawk—"rare winter visitant; specimen in museum of I. S. N. S." (Walters). Kossuth—"a few seen. I am sure of identity of this species, as it is well known to me" (Bingaman). Linn—"a pair of Ferruginous Rough-legs winter every year at Gordon's grove, Waubeck; have seen them there four different years. They are larger birds than the Swainson, but are white or nearly so below, with feathered legs. Mr. J. W. Preston collected a set of Ferruginous Rough-leg near Newton" (Berry). Pottawattamie—"straggler" (Trostler). Woodbury—"rare; it is not uncommon in the various mounted Hawks seen in the stores of Sioux City. I have never handled a fresh specimen" (Rich).

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.

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.

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.

DuMont 1931
pp 51-52

LIST OF STOMACH CONTENTS

No.	Sex	LOCALITY	DATE	BIRDS	MAMMALS	MISCELLANEOUS	NOTES
1	Male	Iowa	Dec. 27, '14				Empty
2	Female	Osage	Dec. 24, '14		Small mammal		Empty
3	Male	Britt	Nov. 23, '14		Small rodent		
4	Male	Iowa	Nov. 6, '05		2 shrews—3 rodents		
5	Male	Marion	Nov. 10, '05			Several grasshoppers	Empty
6	Male	Cladbrook	Sept. 1, '06			2 large frogs	
7	Male	Boone	Nov. 10, '05				
8	Male	Iowa	Jan. 4, '06		2 mice		Empty
9	Male	Casey	Nov. 1, '10		Hair		Empty
10	Male	State Center	May 1, '07		Several mice		
11	Male	Iowa	Nov. 13, '05				
12	Male	Cladbrook	Nov. 25, '04		2 rodents (mice)		
13		Rembeck					



Fig. 55.—Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawks

15. *ARCHIBUTEO FERRUGINUS* (Lichtenstein). 348.
Subgenus *Brewsteria* Maynard.
Ferruginous Kough-leg. California Squirrel Hawk.

Field Characters.

—A large reddish backed, white breasted hawk. Sluggish as compared with other hawks, and found hunting early and late in open fields.

Description.

—Above, rufous, especially on the wings, the centers of the feathers dusky or brownish black; tail ashy white, the feathers edged with tawny. Below, white, with a few reddish streaks on other parts below, being reddish with numerous black bars, and

feathered to the toes.

Measurements.—Length, 22 to 24 inches; wing, 16 to 18 inches; tail, 10 to 11 inches.

Range.—Western United States, wandering casually to Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois.

This large hawk is conspicuously a bird of the open prairies of the west and comes only occasionally into Iowa, though it is sometimes taken east of the Mississippi. Dr. Elliott Coues is said to have regarded it as the "handsomest of the North American Falconidae."

The only specimen which I have ever seen that has been taken in Iowa is in the collection of the State Teachers' College at Cedar Falls.

Several authors have referred to it as nesting near Grinnell, but this record is denied by Mr. Lynds Jones, to whom Captain Bendire erroneously attributed the record. (Anderson, *Birds of Iowa*, p. 252, 1907.)

By those who have watched these birds closely, their flight when soaring at a great height is described as resembling that of the Golden Eagle; and when winnowing the air a short distance above the ground their flight simulates that of the Osprey.

Their food is mostly small mammals such as ground squirrels, field mice, and rabbits, and also reptiles.

Although, because of their infrequent visits to the state they are not an immediate economic factor, they probably play a part in limiting the range of injurious rodents which, unchecked, might reach our borders.

Archibuteo ferrugineus (Lichtenstein).

*Coues, E., Key to North American Birds, 3d Edition, p. 551, 1887.

*Jones, L., and Parker, H. W., in W. W. Cooke's Report on the Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley, 1884-85: U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Economic Ornithology, Bull. 2, p. 117.

(Grinnell.)

Ridgway, R., Ornithology of Illinois, p. 481, 1889.

*Goss, N. S., History of the Birds of Kansas, p. 271, 1881.

*Kelsey, Carl, Birds of Poweshiek County, Iowa: Ornithologist and Geologist, Vol. 16, p. 132, 1891.

*Coues, E., Key to North American Birds, 4th Edition, p. 551, 1892.

Hatch, Dr. P. L., Birds of Minnesota, p. 194, 1892.

*Bendire, Capt. Chas., Life Histories of North American Birds, Vol. 1, p. 259, 1892.

Fisher, A. K., Hawks and Owls of the U. S., p. 91, 1893.

Keyes, Charles Reuben, The Iowan Raptors: The Iowa Ornithologist, Vol. 3, No. 2, p. 17, April, 1897.

Bailey, B. H., Two Hundred Wild Birds of Iowa, p. 62, 1906.

Widmann, Otto, A Preliminary Catalogue of the Birds of Missouri: Trans. Acad. Sci., St. Louis, pp. 99-100, 1907.

Anderson, R. M., Birds of Iowa, p. 252, 1907.

Cory, C. B., Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin, p. 469, 1909.

A. O. U. Check List, p. 161, 1910.

Chapman, F. M., Birds of Eastern North America, p. 300, 1912.

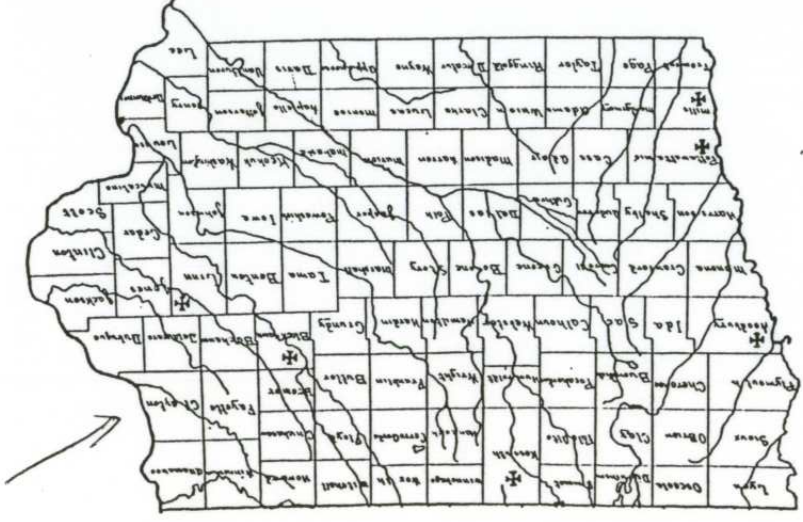


Fig. 56.—Map showing the distribution in Iowa of the Ferruginous Roulle-legged Hawk.

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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.



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Dear Barb,

I went to the UNI museum to see if they have a Ferruginous Hawk specimen; they do. Unfortunately, there is no data attached to it and the Museum Director, Ron Wilson, doubted that there was any data elsewhere concerning collection date, location, etc. As is the problem elsewhere, many of these specimens were collected when shooting to collect was legal and the data was never recorded or saved. Ron thinks this hawk may have been collected around 1910. If you have any questions you can call or write him at the UNI Museum.

Sincerely,

Dave Conrad