

Common Raven
28 Dec 1966
west of Mason City, Cerro Gordo Co., IA
Dean Roosa, Paul Bailey
Roosa 1967

Record Number: 93-FU
Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Roosa, D.M. 1967. Raven sighted near Mason City. IBL 37:52.
VOTE: 4 A-D, 1 NA

A-D, Minimal description, but the wedge-shaped tail, presumably larger size compared to crows, and unspecified flight pattern would seem to be enough for Dean Roosa to make a reliable identification. /thk

NA, When we have an "expert" observer who presumably knows the significance of a sighting yet provides only minimal details, I must wonder if the bird was well seen and if the field marks observed were conclusive. Most of this description tells us nothing; the points that do are weak. The only real field mark here is "rounded or wedge-shaped tail". I have seen rounded tails on Crows. Comparison in size to nearby Crows is not very helpful. Were they next to the subject bird, or in the next field, for example? /ric

A-D, Minimal description, but location and date supportive./wrs

RE-VOTE: 2 A-D, 3 NA

NA, Bob convinced me to change my vote. For unlikely, difficult-to-identify species we should hold out for high standards./thk

A-D, (although RIC comments well taken)/wrs

NA, Thanks for making me take a closer look. Description is minimal and seems casual -- too much so for a rare species./cjb

Roosa, D. 1967. Raven sighted near Mason City. IBL 37:52.

RAVEN SIGHTED NEAR MASON CITY--On December 28, 1966, as Paul Bailey and I were driving from Clear Lake to Mason City, we sighted a large, dark-colored bird perched on a power line pole about two miles west of Mason City on highway 106. Upon closer investigation, this proved to be a Raven (*Corvus corax*). It was observed with 8x binoculars both in flight and perched. Its flight pattern, size, and rounded or wedge-shaped tail distinguished it from nearby Crows. -- DEAN M. ROOSA, Goldfield.