

Common Raven
18 Oct 1957
Union Slough NWR, Kossuth Co., IA
Harold Burgess
Burgess 1958

Record Number: 93-FS
Classification: A-D

REFERENCE

Burgess, H. 1958. Raven sighted at Union Slough Refuge. IBL
28:26-27.

VOTE: 5 A-D

A-D, The croak and soaring behavior, along with Burgess's
experience make this a barely acceptable record. He could have
seen the tail shape. /thk

Burgess, H. Raven sighted at Union Slough Refuge. IBL 28:26-27, 1958.

Raven Sighted at Union Slough Refuge.—On October 18, 1957, I observed a Raven flying over Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Kosuth County, Iowa. Earlier in the morning I had observed a large black bird perched in a tree some 1,000 yards across Buffalo Creek from me. I watched it with my 7x35 binoculars, and although I suspected it was a Raven due to its large size, I could not positively identify it at that time since it did not call or make any movements. A half hour later this bird soared across a dike about 200 yards from me and gave a typical "croak" call. I watched it with my binoculars as it alternately flapped and soared until it flew out of sight to the north over Smith Pool.

I have observed the Raven in Michigan's Upper Peninsula during several different winters and have no doubt that the bird observed on Union Slough Refuge was a Raven.

By some coincidence I was lucky enough to observe the same species on October 18, 1956, on French Island, Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge, Clayton County, Iowa, and reported the observation in the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge Narrative Report for the Period Ending December 31, 1956. (Available at the Upper Mississippi Refuge Office at Winona, Minnesota, and at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Offices at Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Washington, D.C.)

It appears to me that these observations, coupled with the positive identification by Jack W. Musgrove, Museum Director of State Department of History and Archives, of a Raven collected on October 7, 1956, in Dickinson County and Biologist James G. Sieh's identification of the remains of a Raven in 1952 (see *Iowa Bird Life*, XXVII, pp. 21-22), indicate the Raven is a regular visitor to northern Iowa and should be added to the Check-List of Iowa Birds.

I reported my observation to Jack W. Musgrove, and he mentioned another Iowa record in the fall of 1957. Writing under date of December 2, Mr. Musgrove said, in part: "I want to thank you for your notes concerning the Raven and might say that another Raven has been added to the collection from this state. It was taken October 5, 1957, in Emmet County by Ralph Lempke. There are apparently a number of these birds coming into our state each year, and more careful observation will establish other records."—HAROLD H. BURGESS, Refuge Manager, Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Burt, Iowa.
