

Fish Crow
11 May 1996
sw. of Oakville, Louisa Co., IA
*Peter C. Petersen
IBL 66:105; 67:82

Record Number: 96-21
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Peter C. Petersen, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport 52803

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:105

Records Committee: IBL 67:82

VOTE: 4 A-D, 3 NA

NA, It seems to me that Am. Crows could have fledged by this date. In addition, details are lacking and sighting time was only about one minute.

A-D, I have trouble with a description as a "small crow" since even on the coast where they are an expected species, size is impossible to determine on an individual bird, but call is right for Fish Crow. Date is probably marginal but location is good.

NA, I don't think we should at this time accept records of this species based on a weak call heard twice and reported by only 1 of 2 observers. To do so, would be to open a can of worms.

NA, Due to discussions I have heard about this species and concerning the call of juvenile birds of the American Crow in their second year I think we need to look at this species more closely. It has been discussed that the juvenile American Crow may still be giving a call that is basically the same as an adult Fish Crow. Can we find any more information on this to see if it is true or not?

A-D, While description barely adequate, I also will concede that this probably a Fish Crow.

REVOTE: 6 NA, 1 A-D

A-D, Size is very difficult to judge without a comparison, but the description of the call, made by an experienced birder, indicates Fish Crow.

NA, It seems to me that Am Crows could have fledged by this date. In addition, details are lacking and sighting time was only about one minute.

NA, Juvenile American Crow should have fledged by this date.

NA, With current discussion of calls being confused with young American Crows, I suspect we will need a more thorough description of physical characteristics for an accepted record. Need more discussion of this species.

NA, nothing to add to my previous comment.

NA, Further discussion needed on this species in Iowa.

NA, I am totally perplexed by reports of this species. I would like to return to "square 1" and re-evaluate what we have. At this time I feel we need a diagnostic recording or of course specimen or even a photo which could be measured proportion-wise.

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

96-21

What species? Fish Crow How many? 1

Location? 1/2 mi SW Oakville, Louisa Co. IA.

Type of Habitat? Bottomland Forest along Iowa River

When? date(s): 11 May, 1996 time: 10:30 to 10:31 AM C.S.T.

Who? your name and address: Peter C. Petersen, 235 McClellan Blvd, Davenport, IA.

Others with you: Brian Blevins

Others before or after you: none to my knowledge

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Small crow, seen only in flight. Flight weak. Call heard twice, call in 2 parts - ca - ah

Similar species; how eliminated: Am. Crow - larger, different call, flight stronger.
Due to late season no Am. Crows have fledged.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? no
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. 200m - sun at right angle
10x40 Zeiss Binocs

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen many times in the South, once previously in Iowa

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? 2 min this form completed? 10 hours

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).