



IOS IORC &lt;iorcommittee@gmail.com&gt;

## IORC Documentation Submission

1 message

**IORC Web Submission** <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

Sun, Apr 14, 2019 at 7:58 PM

Reply-To: iorcommittee@gmail.com

To: iorcommittee@gmail.com

1) This form submitted as supporting documentation of (check all that apply):	Unusual species
If other, please describe:	
2) Species:	Black Vulture
3) Number of birds:	1
4) Age/Sex/Plumage:	Unknown
5) Date:	2019-04-09
6) Location (include county):	Jarvis Bird Sanctuary, Lincoln Park, Chicago (Flyover)
7) Observers:	Tamima Itani
8) Your name:	Tamima Itani
Street Address	██████████
Street Address Line 2	
City	██████████
State / Province / Region	█
Postal / Zip Code	██████
Country	██████████
10) Your e-mail address:	██
11) Others agreeing with the identification:	
12) Observers NOT agreeing with the identification:	
13) Description of bird (size, shape, proportions, details of both color and pattern on head, back,	I was birding at the Jarvis Bird Sanctuary on April 9. About 15 minutes before wrapping up my birding session there, I noticed a vulture flying above the sanctuary, being chased by a crow. The vulture was flying from North of the Jarvis Sanctuary, in a South by Southwest direction. I looked at it in my binoculars and was struck by two features, or lack thereof: 1) I could not see any red on the face, as one would expect in a Turkey Vulture and 2) I could not see white underneath.

chin, throat, breast, flanks, wings, undertail, and tail, etc.; coloration of soft parts: bill, legs, and feet) include only details actually seen in the field :	The wings were rectangular. When I thought of taking a photo and tried to, the vulture was flying over the trees at Jarvis and I was not able to take a photo through the trees. Having never seen a Black Vulture in IL previously, it did not even occur to me that this is what it could be. When I got back in my car, I saw an email from Geoffrey Williamson about a Black Vulture he had seen flying over Montrose and heading South. The time was nearly identical to when I saw the vulture, which led me to conclude that what I had seen was a Black Vulture. The absence of white could be explained by how the light was hitting the bird, but the strongest support in my mind that it was not a Turkey Vulture was the absence of any red on the head, which I immediately noticed. I considered whether this was a raptor, but it was entirely black. From a size standpoint, it was much larger than the American Crown that was chasing it, I would say 2-3 times larger from my vantage point.
14) Description of behavior:	The Vulture was flying, being chased by a crow. It was not soaring or coasting, it was actively flying. It was not super high. If I were to estimate, it was maybe 50-100 meters above the tree canopy, maybe a little higher. At first, I had very good views of both the vulture and the crow, but they were then partially obscured by the tree canopy in front of me and then I could not see them anymore. They did not fly directly South over me, they flew in a South, Southwest direction.
15) Description of vocalizations:	I did not hear any.
16) Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s):	When I saw the vulture and the crow, I was standing on the turf area South of the Jarvis Bird Sanctuary enclosure. I had visited the Purple Martin houses and was making my way back to the parking lot when I saw them both North of the Jarvis Sanctuary, making their way South/Southwest. The overall habitat was the Chicago Lakefront at the sanctuary, which includes the wooded sanctuary itself, the lawn areas and the lake. While I saw it, the vulture was in the air at all times, being chased by a crow.
17) Optical equipment used for observation (type, power):	Vortex Viper 8x42
18) Distance/how measured?	500 to 200 m, estimate. I saw the vulture first when it was North of the Sanctuary, then over it, then I lost it as the tree canopy blocked my view.
19) Time of observation:	10:45 am
20) Total time of observation:	1-2 minutes, estimate. I had enough time to look at it with my eyes, then with my binoculars, then to grab my camera to try and take a photo (which I was not able to take)
21) Weather conditions:	Clear day, sunny, blue skies with a few clouds. Temperatures were in the 50s, I believe.
22) Previous experience with this species and similar species:	I had 33 prior Black Vulture sightings outside the US. I had not seen a Black Vulture in the US previously or in IL. I have seen Turkey Vultures extensively previously, including 7 together the prior week, in Wheeling, IL.
23) Please eliminate other similar species and/or hybrids:	The strongest evidence against Turkey Vulture is the lack of red on the face or head and the absence of white in the under wings. I wondered if it was a raptor and ruled it out immediately by the solid black color of the bird and the rectangular shape of the wings.
24) Were photos obtained?	No
25) If so, by whom?	Not applicable
26) Books and illustrations consulted and advice received. How did these	I consulted Cornell's <a href="http://allaboutbirds.org">allaboutbirds.org</a> to confirm that a Black Vulture would not have red on the face or white under the wings.

influence this description?:	
27) How long after the observation were field notes recorded?	15 minutes
28) How long after the observation was this form completed?	5 days
29) Additional remarks (URLs can be entered here):	<p>My initial thought was that I was seeing a Turkey Vulture, but I was puzzled by the lack of white under the wings and the lack of red in the face. I reached for my camera but by the time I pointed it towards the birds, they had were flying over trees and I could not get a good shot through the branches. It was only when I saw Geoff Williamson's email about his sighting at Montrose that I put the tow and two together and realized I had seen a Black Vulture. Being a relatively new birder, it did not even occur to me that this is what it could be, as it is not routinely seen in IL and I had never seen it myself in IL, or seen it reported on the Cook County ebird alerts.</p>