

IOWA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS DOCUMENTATION FORM

What species? Northern Goshawk How many? 1
 Location: County Boone Block T83N, R26W, S21
 Location in detail Boone Wildlife Research Station just south of Ledges
 State Park
 Habitat? Oak woods, open fields
 When? date? August 25, 1986 Time: 1:00 pm to
 Observer? Name: Douglas A. Reeves
 Address: Route 1, Ledges Road, Boone IA 50036
 Telephone: 515-432-2823

Description of bird(s): include size, shape, detailed description of all parts including bill, eye, head, neck, back, wings, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet; also voice and behavior. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Bird was observed flying overhead at treetop height. It flew with a rather characteristic flap-glide pattern of accipiter hawks, which is what caught my eye in the first place. It did soar for a short distance after flying overhead. The bird was large for a hawk and was gray underneath (suggesting an adult) with a banded tail and a lighter neck-head area. The wings were relatively large (chunky) and one primary feather was missing from the right wing.

Similar species and how eliminated: Too large for a Cooper's hawk (it was big!!), or a broad-winged hawk. No other gray hawks of that size and description that I am aware of.

Did anyone have reservations about identification? If so, explain:
 Because of the time of year, we had reservations but we rather methodically eliminated other possibilities based on behavior and size.

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance and how measured, optical equipment used.

Clear sky, bird observed with unaided eye at approximately 30 yards straight overhead (treetop height). Sun was at our backs, bird in front.

Previous experience with this species and other similar ones:

We have an immature goshawk at the station presently. I have photographed an adult near the Des Moines River and flushed one adult off a bobwhite quail it had killed (McCoy Wildlife Area)

BREEDING BEHAVIOR: Give all details observed that indicate that the species breeds on the block. If nest, eggs, young, or courtship display were observed, describe in detail.

Not Applicable.

If books or other birders were consulted before writing up the documentation, please list them here:

Other observers were DeWaine Jackson, Wildlife Biologist, Tom Putnam, Fisheries Biologist, and Jim Kienzler, Wildlife Biologist. We double-checked with a Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America.

How long after observation were field notes made?

Immediately

How long after observation was this form completed?

2 hours