

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

2/24/81

1. Species NORTHERN GOSHAWK (IMM) 2. Number 1  
3. Location RED ROCK RES. - SOUTH END OF ROBERT'S CREEK PARK  
4. Date: 6 FEB 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 0930 to 0940

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

Size: Slightly larger than a crow, not as large as a Red-tailed Hawk

The plumage was as follows: breast - richly streaked in brown on an otherwise white belly, head - definite white stripe over a dark red-brown eye. The top of the head was a little darker, but not as dark as the patch behind the eye. The patch behind the eye was darkest near the edges (OVER) The contrast of the white stripe and the dark edge of the patch was easily seen.

7. Description of voice, if heard:

NOT HEARD

8. Description of behavior: The bird was hunting along a roadside near the lakes edge. It was sitting on a utility pole (OVER)

9. Habitat - general: - a very open area between a log of Red Rock and Robert's Creek Lake  
specific: - grass - 6-8" high

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

The size and head markings eliminated Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks & Marsh Hawk by head and lack of Rump Patch (OVER)

11. Distance (how measured)?

50 FEET PACED

12. Optical equipment:

7X50 BINOCULARS

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

good light - sun was behind me and to my left

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

I have never seen this species before, but I have seen both Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

15. Other observers:

NONE

16. Did the others agree with your identification?

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Birds of North America Robbins, et al. A Field Guide to the Birds - Peterson

I had a good idea what the bird was before I checked the books, but

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? (OVER)

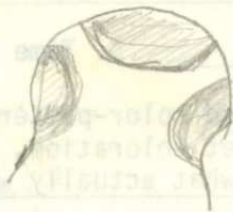
2 HOURS

Signature: Robert E. Thurlburg Address: RR 1

Date: 6 FEB 1981 City, State: PLEASANTVILLE IOWA



BACK OF HEAD



The beak was a grey-blue in color. The legs were a light yellow in color. The tail was quite long and had very light stripes, grayish in color. If I were not as close, I probably wouldn't have seen any stripes at all.

The bird's flight was very powerful, with 4-5 wing beats and a very short glide.

Imm Red-tailed by the heavy streaks over the entire breast, the much longer tail and the head markings.

after having such a good chance to study the bird close up and compare it to book descriptions, I could see the similarities.