

S. J. STAUDT

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk How many? 1

Location? Macbride Field Campus Johnson Co.

Type of habitat? mixed conifer and deciduous forest. hilly with open areas

When? date(s)? January 6 1994 time: 9:10 am to 9:15 am

Who? your name and address: Thomas J. STAUDT

others with you: \_\_\_\_\_

others before or after you: Carol Newton w/a Christmas count group December 17, 1993

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.

I went to the Macbride Field Campus looking for a Goshawk. As noted above, one had been seen there on our Christmas count. While driving I noticed a fairly large hawk perched in a bare deciduous tree. I stopped quickly and observed a dark capped hawk with a white eyebrow strip. The stripe was wider at the back of the head than over the eye. The rest of the head was an overall gray with the face and cheeks being whitish. The back and wings of the bird were a dark blue-gray. I observed the bird for less than a minute before it flew. In flight the underparts were seen, they were an off white color.

I drove on and figured I wouldn't see the bird again. However, as I came around a corner approaching the west parking lot I got a quick look at the bird as it flew. Large sized, blue-gray upperparts, and long tail were noted. Wingbeat seemed strong as the bird flew below the treetop level into a ravine. I chased but could not locate the bird again.

Rounded wings were not observed but I saw nothing to indicate they were long and pointed as a falcon.

Similar species and how eliminated: large size and eyebrow strip eliminate other accipiters.

Buteo's are generally browner, shorter tail, and also lack an eyebrow strip.

Osprey is also browner and has more extensive white on the head. Osprey also would have noticeably long wings.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

overcast                      about 75 yds both sightings                      7X binoculars

Previous experience with this species and similar ones:

I've seen 1-2 Goshawk each of the last 3 years in Iowa. Documentation for a November, 1993 sighting

References and persons consulted before writing description:

National Geographic's Field Guide to the Birds of North America.

recently submitted.

How long before field notes made? 10 min after second This form completed? 2 days

sighting