

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk How many? 1 ad.Location? Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co.Type of habitat? large area of deciduous trees adjacent to reservoirWhen? date(s): March 10, 1985 time: 4:45 PM to 4:50 PMWho? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010

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

others before or after you: \_\_\_\_\_

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Bird was first seen perched about 20' off ground in a large oak tree. The bird was fairly large: estimated about 24" long. The dark colored back and plain gray/white underparts were easily seen. Some faint banding was evident on the tail ~~as~~ seen from underneath. The bird also had extensive white through the eye which appeared to extend all the way around the head in the back.

After the bird had perched for 2-3 minutes it suddenly took to the air. The short, stubby wings contrasting with the long, barred tail were evident. As seen in the air, the bird's back and back of wings appeared uniformly dark in color except for the lighter banding on the tail. In flight, the bird would rapidly flap its wings and then glide some distance before it would flap again.

Judging by the dark back ~~and~~ (not brown) and the clear underparts, I identified this bird as an adult Northern Goshawk.

Similar species and how eliminated:

other accipiters by lack of large size, extensive white above eye on the head and lack of clear gray/white underparts.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Lighting was ok. The sky was mostly overcast but it was not dark. Estimated viewing distance was 100' at closest when it was perched. I viewed the bird through a B&L 20x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen N. Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, and sharp-shinned Hawk in Iowa.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

NGS Field Guide to Birds of North America

How long before field notes made? 4 hrs. this form completed? 4 hrs

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