

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk How many? 1Location? Iowa; Allamakee County, Hanover Twsp., Sect. 8
Steep flood plain bluffs with mixed (cedar and deciduous)
Type of habitat? forest vegetation.When? date(s): 21 November 1982 time: 0845 to 0846 hoursWho? your name and address: John C. Robinson/P.O. Box 1015 Herrin, Illinois 62948others with you: Carol Newlon and Hank Zaletel

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.

The bird was observed briefly. It appeared to be an adult with the following features being noted:

- 1) Typical accipiter shape with rounded wings and conspicuously long, banded tail.
- 2) Flight consisted of several wingbeats alternated with short glides.
- 3) Underparts a steel-gray color, with dark eyeline and white eyestripe.
- 4) Size comparable to the Red-tailed Hawks also seen in the area.

Observation distance did not permit a more detailed study of the bill, eyes, neck, etc.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Cooper's Hawk: Although size overlap is possible, this species lacks the blue-gray underparts and bold facial patterns mentioned above.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? YesIf yes, explain: Hank Zaletel declined to identify the bird to species.Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: 70 to 80 yards (estimated); sun was to my right and slightly behind me; viewing conditions excellent. 10x50 Pentax BinocularsPrevious experience with species and similar ones: I have seen 4 Northern Goshawks and a substantial number of Cooper's Hawks.References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? 3 hrs. this form completed? 15 hrs

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