

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk How many? 1 (adult)Location? Sweet Marsh - Bremer CountyType of habitat? Edge of timber bordering the marshWhen? date(s): April 10 time: 9:00 AM to 9:05 AMWho? your name and address: Robert K. Myers, 1236 Sylvia Ave., Waterloo, Iowa, 50001others with you: Francis Moore, Russell Hays

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.

We first saw the bird as it flew in front of us at the south end of Sweet Marsh and then again as it chased a flock of teal and caught one in mid-air and carried it back into the timber. We all yelled "Goshawk" the instant the bird first appeared.

Size: Very large accipiter - long tail - bird was almost red-tail hawk size.

Color: Basically dark blue-gray above with dark cap and light gray below. A light eye stripe could also be seen.

The flight was very swift and direct. Its speed overcame the flushing teal as if they were standing still.

Similar species and how eliminated: Cooper's hawk was eliminated by color - bird was dark blue-gray above and clear light gray, not streaked or reddish, below. Bird also had broad eye stripe.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

The day was cloudy with intermittent snow, but at this time the visibility was pretty good. Our closest approach was about 50 yd. (by guess). I used 7x35 binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I has found several goshawks this winter - actually more than Cooper's.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 8 hours this form completed? 1 week

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