

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

1988
TCWhat species? Northern Goshawk How many? 1Location? Big Rock Park, Pella, IowaType of habitat? 80 acre timber tract but near Red Rock Reservoir.When? date(s): Nov. 26 time: 10:00 to 10:02Who? your name and address: Gordon Brand, 413 Frankfort Ave. NE., Orange City, Ia.others with you: Raymond Brand, my father

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.

Large gray hawk with a long tail. I saw lines on the wings but no horizontal markings on the body. I also saw the very distinctive dark "eyepatch". The hawk was flying approximately 75-100 ft. above the trees and flew directly over us ~~and~~ I was able to clearly observe it for 1-2 minutes. The light was quite diffuse and so I was able to see the underside markings remarkably well. I Called Gladys Black of the sighting so that a Des Moines group coming to Red Rock Lake could keep an eye out for it.

Similar species and how eliminated: Coopers Hawk. This Hawk had no horizontal barring on the belly. It was larger and had a very pronounced dark eyepatch

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

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

diffuse light, distance estimated, viewed with 7x35 binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I've seen numerous study skins of the hawk and had seen it live once before. I've also seen Coopers on occasion.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Peterson Field Guide

How long before field notes made? same day this form completed? 12/1

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