

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk (Accipiter gentilis) How many? 1Location? In a large hardwood at the edge of the Cedar River in Ulrich Park, Black Hawk Co.Type of habitat? edge of Cedar River in mixed hardwood forestWhen? date(s): December 25, 1981 time: _____ to _____Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 264 Western Avenue, Waterloo, IA 50701others with you: Bob Myersothers before or after you: None (Known)

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. Size was large for an accipiter, larger than a crow, and had typical accipiter shape. The neck and back was a dark rusty brown color, the wings were dark brown but did not show the rusty color to them. There were white spots on the median wing coverts that went down into the tertials. There was a narrow white eye stripe just above the eye from the culmen to the nape. The bird had a large dark colored bill. The undertail coverts could be seen sticking out on either side of the birds tail. The tail was a dark brown color with four bars across it showing. The bars appeared to be outlined on both the top and bottom of each bar by a light gray edgewise when seen through the 40X eyepiece. The bird did not turn around the whole time that it was viewed and I only got a look at the upper surface of the bird. The bird did not fly while it was being viewed so flight pattern could not be seen. No voice was heard.



The fact that the bird had a definite white eye stripe and the fluffy undertail coverts out of place led me to believe that this was a Northern Goshawk. The bird was an immature bird from the brown coloration of its upper surface. None of the lower surface of the bird was seen. The bird seen was an immature.

Similar species and how eliminated: Cooper's Hawk does not show a white eye stripe or loosely held undertail coverts that this bird displayed. Cooper's also would not appear this large.

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 very good, intermittent sun and overcast, light falling fully on bird with bird south of our location, sun in front and a little to left of my location, viewed at approx. 200 yards with 20X and 40X Bushnell Spacemaster telescope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen one other Goshawk, have seen and identified many Cooper's Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 1/2 Hour this form completed? 9 Hours

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240