

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk (Accipiter gentilis) How many? 1 im.Location? U.S. Highway 20 and Airport Blvd., Waterloo, Black Hawk Co., IAType of habitat? Open fields and marshy land near George Wyth S.P.When? date(s): October 3, 1984 time: 5:37 p.m. to 5:40 p.m.Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Noneothers before or after you: None that I know of

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.

As I was driving home from work I noticed a large hawk flying to the North from a soybean field on the South side of U.S. Highway 20. As the bird flew I could see that it acted like an Accipiter species with the ~~characteristic~~ characteristic flap, flap, flap soar type of flight. As I slowed down to try to get a better look at the bird it banked up and flew by in front of me at about 50 feet about 30 feet above the road surface. The bird was large about Red-tailed Hawk size and was the darkest brown N. Goshawk that I had ever seen. About the only thing I could think of confusing it with would be a female N. Harrier but the birds habits were not those of a Harrier. The bird was an overall chocolate brown with the breast being a little lighter with very dark brown streaks running down it. The bird had a vivid white superciliary line, probably because of the dark coloration of the bird it looked whiter than usual. The under tail coverts were also very white and ~~the~~ were hanging from the birds body and looked very long and fluffy. The tail was quite long and not fanned out. The wings appeared short and stubby and were rounded on the tips.

Similar species and how eliminated: N. Harrier glides quite abit with a slight dihedral and has a white rump, this bird flew like an Accipiter with a flap, flap, flap sail with the glide short and no dihedral to the wings.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Excellent viewing conditions, sunny, seen from approx. 50 feet with unaided eye, no optical equipment.Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen many N. GoshawkReferences and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? None this form completed? 4.5 Hours

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