

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Northern Godhawk 2. Number: one
 3. Location Big Creek - Polk Co, Iowa
 4. Date: 17 November 1985 5. Time Bird seen: abt 2 pm. to $\frac{1}{2}$ min (?)
 6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
HUGE accipiter - VERY large with broad - short rounded wings and very long tail; tail lite brown with dark brown bands; breast & belly tannish with dark brown streaks. wing linings tannish- ~~rust~~ rest of wing (primaries & etc) very pale with dark lines parrallelling rear edge & then curving forward along bases of primaries; back & top of wings brown; head more or less brownish with lite line over eye. Length appeared comparable to that of a good sized Red-tail.
 7. Description of voice, if heard:
 8. Description of behavior: first seen at corner of car on drivers side - flew ahead of car a little way then off to left then dived into bunch of trees.
 9. Habitat - general: near marsh with small bunches of trees around & pasture-like specific: areas.
 10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
much too big for Sharp-shinned & Coopers; Coopers doesn't have lite eye line.
 11. Distance (how measured) 15 feet to 300 feet.
 12. Optical equipment:
7 x 35 binoculars.
 3. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
sun to our West; bird at ~~first~~ first to NE then to North.
 4. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Saw one near the same place several years ago.
 5. Other observers:
Steve Dinsmore
 6. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
 7. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
 8. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description
Birds of North America & Field Guide To The Birds.
 9. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? a few notes
immediately; rest 1 1/2 hours.
- Signature [Signature] Address: 1120 Marston
Date: 17 November 1985 City, State: Ames, Iowa 50010