

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Goshawk (Accipiter gentilis) How many? oneLocation? East entrance to Ledges State Park; Worth Twp., Boone Co.Type of habitat? Edge of oak-hickory forest, uplandWhen? date(s): Thursday, 25 Feb '82 time: 1500 to 1525Who? your name and address: Dave Newhouse, 1101 Lincoln Way, Apt. 2, Ames 50010

others with you: _____

others before or after you: Tom Putnam (Boone) saw it first, carrying ♀ pheasant

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.

50 m: Raptor with gun-metal gray back; almost redtail size. Turning saw dark eye stripe and crown. With 7 x 35 binoculars, saw red eye.

Walking to within 15 m: light belly, barred tail. Wings gun-metal gray, too.

Tom Putnam saw the bird stoop on and take hen pheasant from Ranger Gary Silver's lawn. Carrying it off, it could just get 1½-2 m off the ground, and dropped hen in entrance road, perching in nearby oak tree (where I first observed it).

I flushed it twice, and took 15 photographs, with 205 mm and 500 mm lenses.

Similar species and how eliminated: Wrong habitat and shape for osprey.
Much larger than Cooper's. Red eye plainly visible.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Overcast afternoon light; photos taken at f4-8, 1/125-1/500 sec.
with ASA 200 film.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Familiar with goshawks and

Cooper's from grouse research areas in northern Michigan.
References and persons consulted before writing description:

Showed Tom Putnam illustration from Robbins, et al during sighting.

How long before field notes made? Immediate this form completed? 2 hr.

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