

Details of Identification: Sharp-shinned Hawk

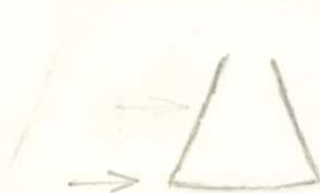
Note: I decided to provide this additional information due to the infrequency of summer sightings of this species.

SIZE: My theory of accipiter identification by size is this: if it's clearly Crow-sized, it's a Coopers. If it's clearly Blue-Jay sized, it's a Sharp-shinned. If it's clearly in the middle, it's back to the drawing board. This bird, in my opinion, was intermediate in size between the two. This suggests to me that the bird--assuming it was a sharpie--was a female. I should add that I had no other birds around for a size comparison--perhaps not suprisingly.

HEAD: The head was obviously rounded when viewed in profile. There was also a conspicuous supercilliary streak.

UNDERPARTS: Moderate brown streaking--it was an immature bird.

TAIL: I saw the tail only in flight. In flight, the tail was fanned and so it appeared slightly rounded, but was sharply squarred on the corners.



tail was probably longer than this, but you get the idea.

○ 10 sure 4 → Two days previous to this sighting, I was with the Proescholdts in an area perhaps ¼ mile from the above sighting--which by the way was at the Croton Unit of Shimek State Forest, Lee County on June 6, 1986--who identified a Sharp-shinned. I did not see it well enough. Anyway, as a result, I dug out the Dec. 84 issue of "Birding" (XVI-6) and checked the article on accipiter identification, so I basically knew what to look for when viewing the bird. I made field notes at the time. Binocs: 10x40. I should have gone ahead and documented this.

[Bob Cecil/TKF]