

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Northern Goshawk 2. Number: 1

3. Location Big Creek Lake, Polk Co,

4. Date: November 21, 1981 5. Time Bird seen: 9:00 am to 9:07 am.

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): Breast and entire front of bird was heavily streaked and speckled, the back color was a grayish brown with a fair amount of white speckling similar to that seen on Red-tailed Hawks. Head was distinctly gray and eye color was intermediate between gold-brown and red. The head lacked the black eyeline (it was an immature bird) and the top of the bill was yellow at the base. Nape of neck was characterized by a light golden-brown patch. Long tail was distinctly barred as seen while sitting and flying. Flight was like an accipiter and it landed in a tree next to a Great Horned Owl, which it approximated in size.

7. Description of voice, if heard:

N/A

8. Description of behavior: It allowed close approach; found feeding on a Ring-necked

9. Habitat - general: Deciduous slope next to a lake  
specific: In the middle of a deciduous grove of trees.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:

Other accipiters are smaller than Great Horned Owls

11. Distance (how measured)? 15-20 yds; estimated by eyesight 12. Optical equipment: Pentax 10x50 Binoculars

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Overcast and cloudy; no glare from sun; viewing conditions very good

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I had seen a Goshawk on November 5 & 7th & I have seen many sharpshinned & Cooper's Hawks

15. Other observers: Hank Zaletel & Joe Schaufenbuel

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: None

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Golden Field Guide by C.S. Robbins

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 4 hours (made from notes taken in the field)

John C. Robinson Address: P.O. Box 1015  
Signature

Date: 11-21-81 City, State: Ames, Iowa 50010