


DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk How many? 2Location? East side of Saylorville Reservoir Dam, Polk Co., IowaType of habitat? Hickory-Oak Hillside, along Reservoir.When? date(s): Oct. 29, 1982 time: 11:00 a.m. ^{1st at} ~~to~~ ^{and 2nd} 1:30 p.m.Who? your name and address: Joseph P. Schaufelbuel, 924 Pammel Court Ames IA 50010others with you: NAothers before or after you: NA

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.

Two birds were observed traveling in a S.E. direction in a 25mph NW wind. Both were very similar ~~in~~ size, actions and plumage. Both were observed at distances of around 700 yds in good light. In size they were near that of a ~~N.~~ Harrier. Were uniformly dark gray on head, lighter gray on back, and with a long gray banded tail. Birds appeared unlike a Buteo in shape as the wings seemed short. The bird flapped differently also, doing a flap-flap-flap, glide flight. The underparts were pearl-gray with no distinct markings. Tail was long.


Similar species and how eliminated: Buteo shape and flight different. Cooper's Hawk would be smaller, with a more rapid wing beat and have rusting or streaked underparts.Did one disagree or have reservations about identification? NA

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Excellent bright sun with sun in S.; birds to N and E as they flew. Used 20x scope to observed flying birds.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I have seen N. Goshawk adults twice before

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? time of sighting this form completed? 2 days.

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

Joe Schaufelbuel