

DOCUMENTATION FORM

- 1) Species: Northern Goshawk                      2) Number: 1
- 3) Location: Ames, Iowa; Story Co., Washington Twsp. Sect. 14
- 4) Date: 5, 7 November 1981                      5) Time seen: 8:00 a.m. on Nov 5 and found  
dead at 4:00 p.m. on Nov. 7.
- 6) Description: This bird was found dead on November 7, 1981. Its size (approximately 22" in length), long tail and rounded wings indicated that it was a large accipiter. The bill was black, a white eyestripe was evident, and a black eyeline and auricular patch was observed. Back coloration was a pale gray with some brown edgings on secondary coverts. Underparts were of a blue-gray coloration with vertical streakings. Leg coloration was yellowish-brown and thick white undertail coverts were present.  
On Nov. 5, when the bird was first seen, I saw only the longish tail, which had light and dark gray bands, before the bird flew from view.
- 7) Voice: Not heard.
- 8) Behavior: On Nov. 5, the bird allowed relatively close approach (25 yards) before it flew from its roosting place and was discovered by us. It flew about 200 yards and entered a nearby grove of deciduous trees.
- 9) Habitat: General: Rows of conifer trees and conifer saplings next to an agricultural field.  
Specific: Found roosting in a row of Eastern Red Cedar trees.
- 10) Similar species which are eliminated:  
Cooper's Hawk: this species is smaller and lacks a definite white eyestripe and black eyeline; underparts are not pale gray.
- 11) Distance: 25 yards on Nov. 5 (estimated by eyesight) and examined in hand on Nov. 7.
- 12) Optical equipment: Pentax 10 x 50 Binoculars.
- 13) Light: Overcast and cloudy; intermittent rain; conditions nonetheless fairly good as the blinding influence of the sun was not encountered.
- 14) Previous experience: This is my first Goshawk. I have seen many Sharpshinned and Cooper's Hawks, however.
- 15) Other observers: Joe Schaufenbuel (both days)
- 16) Agreement: The other observer agreed with the identification.
- 17) Other observers who independently identified this bird: James J. Dinsmore
- 18) References: Golden Field Guide by C.S. Robbins  
This reference upheld the identification of this species.
- 19) This report was written three hours after finding the dead bird.



John C. Robinson November 7, 1981  
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