

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

CBC, see also TS

1. Species Osprey 2. Number 1  
3. Location Farm just west of Swan Lake, I.C. Christmas Court circle  
4. Date: 12/16/78 5. Time Bird Seen: 8 AM to 8:15 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): <sup>dark mark</sup> The bird initially sat facing us and had a clear white unstreaked breast, <sup>and</sup> ~~with~~ a white head with dark marks through the eyes. The tail was banded with fairly narrow bands. When the bird flew it had longer narrower wings, and appeared ~~very~~ very light underneath - it flew into the sun <sup>than buteos</sup> before the wrist marks could be clearly seen. It was a large hawk, at least the size of a red tail.

7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard  
8. Description of behavior: perched on deciduous tree; then windmill  
9. Habitat - general: sitting close to swan lake which was frozen - open water in the reservoir ~ 1/2 mile away.  
specific:

- A marsh hawk would have shown a white rump when it flew and would not have had a white head/dark eye marks.  
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
An immature red tail would have had a belly band and no white on top of the head. A light phase rough leg would have had a belly band, no white on top of the head and a single dark terminal band on the tail. In addition the wings were longer & narrower in proportion to body size than a buteos.  
11. Distance (how measured)? 100-200 yds - estimate 12. Optical equipment: Leitz 8x40B trinovid binoculars, <sup>Bushnell</sup> 25X telescope  
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
sky was clear, bird was clearly lighted with sun in south east to my back and left and bird WSW from me.  
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
Red tails, rough legs and marsh hawks are common in Iowa and I have seen them often here & in Mass. There also had the opportunity to study ospreys here and in Mass.  
15. Other observers: Tom Staudt, R. Williams

16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes  
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:  
Tom Staudt  
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
Peterson, Robbins & Zimm.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? a few hours

Signature: Carol S. Newton Address: 408 Wales St.

Date: 12/19/78 City, State: Iowa City IA 52240