

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Northern Goshawk

How Many?1 ad.

Location?Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co.

Habitat?flying over dam

Date?6 Nov 1986

Time?2:55 P.M.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore, Ames

Others who saw bird:none

Description of bird:The bird appeared to be about as large as a Red-tailed Hawk, several of which I had seen earlier in the day. The wings were not really broad, but were broader than the wings of a Cooper's or Sharp-shinned hawk. The tail was long and showed several alternating dark and light bars. The underparts were mostly grayish, except that the undertail coverts appeared whiter. The back was a dark, slate gray. I could not see the head well enough to see the white eyebrow.

Similar species and how eliminated:The larger size, gray underparts, and whiter undertail coverts eliminate both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were excellent with the sun behind me and the bird flying and circling almost directly overhead. Estimated viewing distance was 50 yards at the closest. I used Nikon 8 x 23 binoculars.

Previous experience with species:I have seen several Northern Goshawks in Iowa in the last two years, including at least two other adults.

References consulted:none

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?2 days