

BENDORF
LBC

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? N. Goshawk -adult How many? 1

Location? Kent Park, Johnson Co. (NW side of park)

Type of habitat? Extensive conifers, weedy clearings, scattered trees.

When? date(s): 17 December 1983 time: 2:30PM to _____

Who? your name and address: Carl Bendorf 825 7th Ave. Iowa City, IA. 52240

others with you: Dan Ray, Amana

others before or after you: none

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.

We had just put our glasses on a Great Horned Owl that had land in a medium sized conifer when suddenly and out of nowhere a raptor appeared in the field of view and swooped very close to the owl. The owl cowered as this bird took a pass at it. The raptor fanned its wings and took off out of sight.

The raptor had long-medium wide wings. The tail was extremely long. The entire upper surface was a solid dark blue-grey color. The bird was easily as big in appearance as the Great Horned Owl. This glimpse was very brief.

The owl had clearly been intimidated by the raptor. We quickly approached the scene of the encounter but we could not see the raptor. A few minutes later we heard a loud burst of "cak-cak-cak-cak", from a nearby hillside. The notes were sharply staccato, and strong and deep. ~~THISXACCIPITRXXCALL~~
~~XXXX~~

We heard only this one burst of call notes, and did not see the bird again.

We felt this was a very brief glimpse, but evidence seems to suggest this species

Note: After reference to several books and listening to call notes on Peterson record, this call is very consistent with Goshawk.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Size(large as Great Horned Owl) eliminates Cooper's Hawk.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
100 ~~XXXXXX~~ yards, overcast, good light, 7X binos

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Saw similar Goshawk about 4 hrs earlier. Saw six birds last winter.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? 4 hrs.

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