

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk (Accipiter gentilis) How many? 1 adultLocation? Big Marsh, ~~Butler~~ ^{Butler} Co., IAType of habitat? Open fields at edge of Marsh with rows of trees and hedgesWhen? date(s): March 24, 1984 time: 10:40 am to 10:50 amWho? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Bob Myersothers 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.

This bird had the characteristic flap, flap, soar, flap, flap, soar, etc. of an accipiter. The bird was a very large accipiter and as it flew away I noticed that it was a blue-gray color on the back. The bird flew away from us and landed in a tree about 150 yds. away. When it landed I viewed it with my telescope and saw the long white undertail coverts and white superciliary line. A Cooper's Hawk would show neither of these marks.

Similar species and how eliminated: Cooper's Hawk does not have a bold white superciliary line like this bird had.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Bright overcast sky from approx. 75 yds. at closest using 7X35mm binoculars and 20x60 Spacemaster telescope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen many N. Goshawk and Cooper's Hawk.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? None this form completed? 24 hours

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