

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) How many? 1 im.

Location? South side of Sweet Marsh, near Kripoli, ~~Bremer~~ Bremer County, Iowa

Type of Habitat? Open fresh water marsh with a few dead trees and stumps above water line

When? date(s): December 19, 1998 time: 11:07 a.m. to 11:12 a.m.

Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703

Others with you: Bob Cecil from Des Moines, IA

Others before or after you: None that I know of.

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A large brownish hawk came flying in over the south side of the marsh and landed on a broken off tree stump approx. 6 to 10 feet tall. The bird was the size of a Red-tailed Hawk but slightly slimmer with a longer tail and shorter ~~wings~~, rounder wings. The bird was probably a female because of its size. It was dark brown above with a long dark brown banded tail (approx. 4 lighter ^{brown} bands). The bird had dark brown streaking on the breast and head. There was a broad white eyebrow stripe above the eye. The bill was blackish with a yellow cere and the feet were yellow. As it flew up to the stump it ~~did~~ had a continuous flapping type of flight but as it flew away from the stump approx. 5 min. later it had a more accipiter flap, flap, flap, soar type of flight. No voice was heard.

Similar species; how eliminated:

Large size eliminates Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks and Merlin.
The broad white eyestripe eliminates all others.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

~~Very~~ partly cloudy with good light, from approx. 100 yds using 10x40 binoculars and 20x telescope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen lots of Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Northern Goshawks and Merlins.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

None

How long before field notes made? None made this form completed? 8 hours

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).