

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

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

Location? approx. .1 mi. E. of entrance to George Wyth State Park along U.S. 20, Black Hawk Co., IA

Type of habitat? Open cropland near woods of George Wyth State Park

When? date(s): November 21, 1985 time: 1:43 pm to 1:45 pm

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

others with you: None

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

I was driving back to work from lunch and noticed a very large accipiter type hawk flying from the North toward my position. I pulled over to the side of the road and the bird flew within about 100 feet of me while I sat in my pickup. The bird was a dark brown color over most of the body. The head was a little lighter color and had a very wide superciliary line which was a white color and very noticeable. The bird had a characteristic flap-flap-soar of an accipiter and had swift flight. The tail was very long looking and was barred with about four or five darker brown bars with lighter bars between. The bird landed in a tree about 75 yards from my position, giving me a side view of it. The breast was streaked with dark brown streaks in a background of buffy brown breast and belly. The under tail coverts were white and hung down from the bird quite a ways, they appeared very fluffy looking. After about 30 seconds the bird continued on its way toward the South and entered George Wyth State Park.

Similar species and how eliminated: Cooper's Hawk is not this large and does not have as wide and bold a superciliary line as this bird had, Cooper's also does not have long fluffy undertail coverts as 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 conditions with very good lighting, seen from about 100 feet at closest, Using Leitz 10X40 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Lots of experience with Cooper's and Northern Goshawk.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? None made this form completed? 4 hrs.

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