

Bob Cecil

1991

DETAILS OF IDENTIFICATION

- ✓ Northern Goshawk (Mar. 31, Croton Unit, Shimek Forest with T. Kent, R. Tetrault)

We observed a large raptor circling perhaps 100' above us. Relatively short, rounded wings, long tail identified bird as an accipiter. Overall size seemed about that of Red-tail hawk, although only thing to compare it with was a nearby soaring Sharp-shinned, which it dwarfed. Breast was a pretty uniform pale gray, (not rusty or streaked), back a blue gray. Conspicuous eye stripe (whitish). Tail banded, rounded at end.

Viewing time perhaps 30 seconds. 10x40 Binoculars.

- Golden Eagle (Ap. 29, Lacey-Keo. State Park, VanBuren County with T. Kent, R. Tetrault)

We observed a very large, dark raptor at a substantial but indeterminate distance ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile or more?), but more or less over the Des Moines River. Just before it disappeared over the tree line, it banked, displaying (on the under-sides) conspicuous white patches at the base of the primaries, and a conspicuous white patch at the base of the tail. Otherwise, the bird was all dark.

I saw a bird in identical plumage not far from here in Lee County several years ago. According to Iowa Birds, these follow river corridors during migration.

Viewing time perhaps 15 seconds. 10x40 binocs.