

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk (Accipiter gentilis) How many? 1Location? Sweet Marsh, Bremer Co.Type of habitat? Marsh (at south side of the marsh)When? date(s): April 10, 1982 time: 8:15 to approx.Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 264 Western Ave., Waterloo, IA 50701others with you: Bob Myersothers before or after you: No

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.

Approaching the water at the south entrance of the Marsh a large bird flew from one of the Oak trees in front of us. As it flew away from us I could see the long, fluffy undertail coverts characteristic of the Goshawk. As it flew along the dike the long tail was also evident. As we were walking to the west along the dike ducks started taking flight in front of us. Just before we got to a bend in the dike a large hawk flew from the woods with a direct flight path out over the water, overtook one of the teal that had flown at our approach as though it were standing still in mid-air and carried it back into the woods at a height just above the dike. The duck that the hawk caught appeared to be a Blue-winged Teal but I could not be absolutely sure it was not a Green-wing. The hawk did not have a lot of trouble carrying the teal to the woods but was definitely losing altitude by the time it did get back to the woods. The flight pattern and method of the kill was one that a Goshawk would use. It all happened so fast it was difficult to notice every thing that transpired.

Similar species and how eliminated: Cooper's Hawk does not appear as large or does not appear to have as long a tail as this bird did. Cooper's Hawks does not have the white fluffy undertail coverts, either.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Very good viewing conditions. Viewed at approx. 75 yds and 125 yds through 7x35mm B+L Roof Prism Binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen two other Northern Goshawks and quite a few Cooper's Hawks. The bird was definitely a very large accipiter.
References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 1/2 hour this form completed? 24 hours

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