

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk How many? 2

Location? 290th St. = 1/4 mile from 562 near Rock Falls, Iowa

Type of Habitat? open pasture

When? date(s): Sept 15 - '93 time: approx 10 am to

Who? your name and address: Rita Goranson - 115 Lakeview Dr Mason City

Others with you: Carolyn Fisher, Beth McBride, Tim Phalen Jan Walter Pat Hansen

Others before or after you: _____

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.

The two were circling quite close to the ground - compared to overhead - 300 ft to 500 ft away.

The tail was the length of the wing - the head extended beyond the wrists. The wrists were most apparent in their flight.

They had straight tails that flared when they neared each other. They appeared larger than crows.

The fingers were visible + separate. However, it was very cloudy and overcast and so we could not pick up coloring - they appeared dull gray below and we didn't see them from above - except quick.

Similar species; how eliminated: turns in circling + coloring was still not discernable.

did not fly like falcons - wing shape different

larger than Coopers - shape appeared different than Coopers

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? _____
If yes, explain: _____

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.
cloudy - overcast
binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones:
have seen several times but more often see Cooper's hawk

References and persons consulted before writing description:
Carolyn + Jan Nat'l Geographic N. Amer Birds + Hawks + Peterson E. N. Amer Birds

How long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? 2 mos

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