

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) How many? 1Location? Seven Bridges County Park near Readlyn, Bremer CountyType of habitat? Brushy open second growth hardwood forestWhen? date(s): November 21, 1981 time: 9:45 am to 9:50 amWho? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 264 Western Ave., Waterloo, IA 50701others with you: Bob Myersothers before or after you: None

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. Bird was observed sitting in a large cottonwood tree inside the above park boundary. Bob Myers was driving in an Easterly direction when we both noticed the bird sitting in the tree. We pulled along side the access road to the park adjacent to the bird. Sun was shining from our front right while facing the bird and was shining directly on the bird. When I got my best look at the bird it was facing directly at us with its breast facing us. It kept swiveling its head from side to side but never seemed to look directly at us. Size of the bird was large, seeming larger than a crow as it sat perched. The bill seemed small for the size of the body. The bird had a black crown and forehead with a large wide white eyestripe. Eye color was a deep red. Bill color was black. The back and wings were an overall bluish-gray color. The breast was whitish with grayish streaks running from throat to the belly. When the vehicle was started it immediately flew toward the East and we got a look at the very long looking tail and a large version of the typical accipiter flight pattern, this time very strong and direct. The bird seemed to have longer wings than any other accipiter that I had seen. No song or voice was heard.

Similar species and how eliminated: Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks are smaller and lack the prominent eye stripe (white) that this bird displayed.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain: N/A

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: At sighting sky was a bright overcast; bird seen at approx. 100 yards; using 7X35 mm B+L Roof Prism Binoculars and 20X Bushnell Spacemaster telescope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have observed a lot of sharp-shinned hawks and several Cooper's Hawks but I have no previous experience with this species.  
References and persons consulted before writing description: A Field Identification by Robbins, Brown, Zim and Singer

How long before field notes made? 8 hours this form completed? 5 days

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