

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species goshawk, adult 2. Number: 1
3. Location Hickory Hill Park, Iowa City, IA
4. Date: 9-18-77 5. Time Bird seen: about 1 PM to ~1:05 PM
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
large accipiter (several inches longer than Cooper's hawk) - dark grey-blue above, clean pale grey below. Dark transverse bands on tail. At that distance could easily see the streaks on belly of imm br-w hawks and the Rufous on the underparts of ad. br-w and Sharp-sh.
7. Description of voice, if heard: NOT heard (Bird seen during major hawk flight (304 birds/3 hours). First seen in company of a Cooper's hawk - identified by larger size, more massive build, rounded tip to tail).
8. Description of behavior: circling with, and swooping at, an imm Cooper's hawk.
9. Habitat - general: Park on east edge of Iowa City
specific: stream valley with second-growth woods, pasture, open meadows, thickets.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Accipiter build, grey upper parts + clean grey underparts eliminate all other E. N. Am. hawks.
11. Distance (how measured)? 1/4 - 1/2 mi (est.) 12. Optical equipment: 8x32 binocs. (towards)
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Strong sunlight (sky with scattered clouds, sun behind observer)
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: have seen goshawks in Mass, Pa.; other accipiters in these states, plus Wash, IA, Md, Va)
15. Other observers: none
16. Did the others agree with your identification? —
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: —
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: none.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? this is a copy of

notes made 3 PM, 2 hr after sighting.

Michael C Fensler

Address: 408 Wales St

Signature

Date: Iowa City IA City, State: IA

52240

11-29-77

(over)