

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk (Accipiter gentilis) How many? 1 (one)Location? 2945 Airport Blvd., Waterloo, Black Hawk Co., IowaType of habitat? Open fields w/fence rows just N. of George Wyth S.P.When? date(s): January 11, 1982 time: 7:38 a.m. to 7:40 a.m.Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 264 Western Ave., Waterloo, IA 50701others with you: Noneothers 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 seen as I drove into the parking lot at work and it appeared to be hunting for pheasants or Rabbits. It was flying low over the ground at about 7 or 8 feet above the ground. As I watched the bird it changed course and flew directly at me. I had stayed in my vehicle and the bird flew about 20 feet in front of my vehicle at about eye level. The bird was an accipiter with the alternate 3 or 4 flaps of the wings with a short glide between the next set of flapping; I could see that from a ways off. When the bird was directly in front of me I could see that it was an adult bird by the light breast and could make out some of the faint barring on its breast. The bird had a definite large eyestripe above the eye, that was not bright white but a little bit dingy as if it had gotten dirty. The bird also seemed to have a very long tail with its undertail coverts loose and more or less hanging down from its body.

Similar species and how eliminated: Cooper's Hawks doesn't have light colored breast as this bird did and Cooper's does not have the large white stripe above the eye.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Bright overcast, scattered fog, distance at closest approx. 20 feet seen without binoculars or telescope, only by eye.Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen several Goshawks in the past year and half and numerous Cooper's Hawks.References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? 15 min. this form completed? 12 hrs.

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