

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk (Accipiter gentilis) How many? 1 (adult)Location? Sweet Marsh near Tripoli, Bremer Co., IowaType of habitat? White Pine planting on North side of Marsh, SW of rangers residenceWhen? date(s): November 14, 1982 time: 4:40 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 264 Western Ave., Waterloo, IA 50701others with you: Bob Myersothers before or after you: None, that I know of

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.

The bird was about 20 feet above the ground and appeared to be on its evening roost. When I first saw the bird I thought it was a Red-tail because of the large size. When I noticed the undertail coverts sticking out on both sides of the tail and then looked at it through my binoculars and saw the red eyes and white stripe above its eye I knew that I was looking at a Goshawk. The bird was large and had what appeared to be a large head and bill when I first noticed it. The back and upper wings were a medium steel gray color overall. The fairly wide white stripe above its eye was very easy to see even in the dimming light of late afternoon. The red eye was even visible. The bird was definitely a mature bird. The crown and cheek patch was a darker shade of gray than the back and was definitely interrupted by the white ~~stripe~~ above the eye. The underparts were a light gray color with fine barring over most of the breast and belly. The bird appeared to be on roost and seemed very tame. Its undertail coverts were protruding from both sides of its tail as viewed from the back. The bird just watched me as I approached and walked directly under it on my way out of the stand of pines. I paused to view it

Similar species and how eliminated: one more time at approx. 40 feet before leaving. The bird never flew or made a sound as I observed it, Coopers Hawk does not have a white stripe above its eye and I have never seen a coopers with fluffy undertail coverts. Red-tailed Hawk does not have the coloration this hawk had.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

lighting was starting to fade but there was still enough light to see the white stripe above the eye and to see its red eyes. Distance was about 25 feet as I walked under the bird while watching it. Optical equipment was 7X35mm Bausch and Lomb Roof Prism binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Last year I saw my first 3 Goshawks. all identified mainly by white stripe above the eye and fluffy undertail coverts.References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? None this form completed? 1 hour

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