

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Northern Goshawk 2. Number 1
3. Location N.W. Hardin Co., Iowa — 2 miles north of Alden at T-intersection
4. Date: 28 Jan. 1983 5. Time Bird Seen: 11:45 to 11:47 AM

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):

As I approached the intersection and turned, I spotted a hawk perched in a tree along the edge of the highway. It was very cooperative as I fumbled for my binoculars. This hawk was larger than a crow and was all white and gray. I saw the distinctive white stripe above the eye though it was faint. The hawk had a gray head and gray back and was white underneath. The breast had light markings on it. The hawk had a faded gray look which was not distinct on the gray colorings. It flew and was all whitish underneath and flew with

7. Description of voice, if heard: ^{Not heard} powerful accipiter-shaped wings in constant flapping as it took off.

8. Description of behavior:

It was perched on a branch and watched me from a side view before flying off.

9. Habitat - general: open corn fields with occasional farmsteads,

specific: Perched in a deciduous grove on the edge of a farmstead with house and barn in the distance.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: was not ♂ Marsh Hawk. Marsh Hawk or N. Harrier has white rump and wings which are longer and narrower appearing than goshawk. Coloration was not that of a Marsh Hawk.

11. Distance (how measured)? (approximated)

Hawk was 40 ft. away from my ven and in the top of a tree which was 25 ft. tall.

12. Optical equipment:

7X35 binoculars.

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

cloudy, hazy, overcast day. 30° with moderate to strong South wind.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

First time for me — a "Life" bird and a real thrill!

15. Other observers: None.

{ Additional to above → I saw bird for about 1 minute before I had binoculars on it for 30 seconds more. }

16. Did the others agree with your identification? NA

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: None

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Afterwards looked at R.T. Peterson's A Field Guide to the Birds and Robbins' Birds of North America but they did not influence my descriptions.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

Very detailed field notes were made 10 minutes later. Documentation done tonight.

Signature: Mark Proescholdt

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Date: Feb. 15, 1983

City, State: Liscomb, Iowa 50148