

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Northern Goshawk 2. Number 1
 3. Location Seven Bridges Park - Bremer County
 4. Date: 11-21-81 5. Time Bird Seen: 9:45 A.M. to 9:50 A.M.
 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):
 1. Size - large - approaching or equal to red-tail hawk when first seen in tree
 2. ~~Size~~ Shape - long tail was noted even when perched and when flying the very long tail and relatively short broad wings (typical accipiter) shape was seen
 3. Color pattern - Basically light gray front (breast, etc.) and dark gray back - Top of head + sides of face were also dark gray - a very prominent wide white eye stripe above eye was easily noted - eye appeared bright red thru scope - no pattern (stripes - spots - etc.) could be detected on breast
 7. Size (cont.) - when flying, bird did not have bulk of red-tail or quite as long of wings
 7. Description of voice, if heard: NA
 8. Description of behavior: bird was perched in tree when first spotted, then flew off thru timber - (flew very fast) - wings beat quite rapidly - did not soar
 9. Habitat - general: Wooded river bottom timber along Wapsipicon Riv.
specific: tree where hawk was sitting is tallest in area - the park has several openings in the timber all visible from this perch
 10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: Coopers is only species I can see any trouble with but size and color and broad white eye stripe make the choice easy
 11. Distance (how measured)? 100 yd. - est. by eye
 12. Optical equipment: B&H 7x35 binocs
Bushnell 20x scope - Nikon 600mm for photos
 13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Bright overcast day - bird was north of us - sun behind
 14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: No previous experience with goshawk but I am quite familiar with coopers + sharp-shins
 15. Other observers: Francis Moore
 16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
 17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Francis Moore
 18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: I really didn't need to consult any literature
 19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 5 hr.
- Signature: Robert K. Myers Address: 1236 Sylvia Ave.
Date: 11-21-81 City, State: Waterloo, Iowa, 50701