

General notes on field identification
Spring 1982 John C. Robinson

Cooper's Hawk (April 4)

This bird was seen in Polk Co. near Big Creek State Park. It was observed for 50 seconds. It was soaring above us at all times and at one time was directly over us. Several rapid wingbeats separated periods of gliding. I was able to observe a distinctly rounded tail as well as rounded wings. The tail was long and narrow. Although no other hawks were in the air at that time to allow for size comparison, this bird appeared somewhat larger than known Sharp-shinned Hawks which I have seen flying at similar heights in Missouri.

Cooper's Hawk (April 24)

This bird was, more or less, the size of a Broad-winged Hawk, the latter of which had been observed earlier this day. The tail was long and rounded at the tip, and the wings were short and rounded. The bird alternated several rapid wingbeats with gliding motions. It was seen to chase after a Red-headed Woodpecker before disappearing from view. Viewing distance was approximately 60 yards.

✓ Short-billed Dowitcher (May 1)

This bird was found in a flooded field associating with Lesser Yellowlegs. Its bill was only slightly longer than those of the Lesser Yellowlegs. A yellowish-buffy color on the breast gave way to a whitish belly and under-tail coverts. Light barring on the flanks was evident. The sides and breast were spotted (not barred) with dark marks.