

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk (Accipiter gentilis) How many? 1 im.

Location? Near Cedar River, north part of Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County, Iowa

Type of Habitat? Wooded river floodplain

When? date(s): December 20, 1998 time: 1:25 p.m. to 1:27 p.m.

Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703

Others with you: None

Others 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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

I watched a large hawk approach my position. It had the flight pattern of an accipiter, flap, flap, flap, soar. It landed in a small tree about 50 yds away. The bird was in immature plumage but was almost a dark tan color instead of the usual dark brown. This is the lightest colored immature N. Goshawk I have seen. There was a definite broad white eyes tripe above the eye that flared out at the back of the head. The upper surface of the wings and back was a dark tan color. The tail was a dark tan color with what looked like five bands that were a little lighter in color. The breast was heavily streaked with dark tan as was the top of the head. The feet and cere were yellow. The bill was a dark bluish gray color. This bird was of intermediate size, not real large or real small for a N. Goshawk, so could have been either a male or a female. No voice was heard.

Similar species; how eliminated:

Size too large for Sharp-shinned or Merlin. Size was also larger than a large Cooper's female should have been.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No.

If yes, explain:

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

Cloudy with good lighting, seen from approx. 50 yards using 10x40 binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Lots of experience with Sharpshinned, Cooper's ~~Hawk~~ Hawks, Northern Goshawk + Merlin.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

None

How long before field notes made? None made this form completed? 5 Hours

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).