

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

PROESCHOLD

What species? Northern Goshawk How many? 1Location? northeast Bremer Co, road just east of Sweet MarshType of habitat? from trees along marsh, over farmlandWhen? date(s): Feb. 15, 1984 time: 1:08 to 1:12 PMWho? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Mark Proescholdtothers before or after you: none to our knowledge, although Bob Myers has seen Goshawks in area.

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.

A hawk, larger than a crow, the length of a rough-legged hawk we had just seen, came hurtling toward us from above trees at the edge of the marsh with the typical flap, flap, flap, sail of an accipiter. Looking into the sun the long tail and short, rounded wings of an accipiter silhouette were very evident, ^{to us} with powerful wing beats it flew about 15 feet over our car to a clump of trees approximately 1/3 mile away where it flew back & forth a minute or so, then dashed on north & out of sight.

The brown-bodied bird, the brown-streaked underparts, the size & shape & the powerful accipiter flight (its jizz), identified it as an immature Northern Goshawk.

Similar species and how eliminated: Cooper's Hawk - too large for that; other hawk (buteos or harrier) - not that because of accipiter shape & flight

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment; mostly clear we looked into the sun as bird hurtled toward us, with sun behind us after it passed over car - binoculars

Previous experience with species, and similar ones: my first goshawk - but Cooper's buteos & harriers I have seen, of course.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Petersons, Robbins, & National Geographic guides

How long before field notes made? at once this form completed? Feb 16

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