

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

CBC, see also  
CN

1. Species Osprey 2. Number 1  
3. Location Carrollville Reservoir, Swan Lake  
4. Date: DEC. 16 1978 5. Time Bird Seen: <sup>between</sup> 8:35 am <sup>and</sup> 8:45 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):

hawk sized bird perched in tree dark back and lightly banded tail visible, also dark beak. Flying away a solid white underbelly was visible. The bird then perched on a windmill. The white top of head with black strip, patch through eyes was seen. In flight the wings appeared longer and more pointed than any butoes.

The black wrist patches were not seen nor was the positioning of the wings noticed. The second flight was into the sun, east, making it difficult to pick up any markings beyond the breast of the bird.

when perched, the beak coloration of the bird could be seen to be more of a slate color than brown.

7. Description of voice, if heard: NOT heard

8. Description of behavior: perched in tree, flew to windmill, perched. flew east into sun.

9. Habitat - general: Frozen shallow lake within a mile of open water  
specific: perched in tree over frozen lake, marsh

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

it was too small for a bald eagle

The light banding on tail, white top of head and solid white underbelly eliminate the red tailed hawk

no white rump seen in flight so not likely to be marsh hawk. Again, the wingshape, long pointed not rounded eliminates any ruffed.

11. Distance (how measured)?

50 yds first sighting

100 yds when perched on windmill

12. Optical equipment:

7X 35mm binoculars

20X scope

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

Cloudless sky, full sunlight on bird, I was looking <sup>S</sup> at the bird

the sun was to my left



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

I lived in New Jersey for a summer and saw many osprey there

also many seen in and around nesting areas at Flathead Lake Montana, also a number of spring sightings around Iowa City

15. Other observers:

Carol Newton

Mr. Mrs Brown

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Carol Newton

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

Birds of North America

no influence other than to comment on the

Field Guide to the Birds

wing position which I didn't notice - and to look at similar species.

others were consulted after the sighting

Carol and I exchanged observations and had enough time for both to see all marks noted.

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

I did the description the same day, this one Dec. 25, bird seen on Dec. 16

Signature: Thomas J. Strandt

Address: 931 N. Summit

Date: Dec. 25 1978

City, State: Iowa City, Ia.