

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) How many? 1 (one)Location? SE Section 2, Fremont Town Ship, Bremer County, IowaType of habitat? Second growth deciduous floodplain along Wapsipinicon RiverWhen? date(s): December 18, 1982 time: 2:15 p.m. toWho? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 264 Western Ave, Waterloo, IA 50701others with you: Peter Louther, Lowell Jons, Mark Müllerothers before or after you: None

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.

As bird flew over me I could easily see that it was a large hawk with accipiter-like flight pattern and a light gray breast. As it approached me I could see that it had a fairly wide white stripe above the eye. Everything happened so fast that I did not notice any type of barring on the breast or its under-tail coverts. The tail was long in proportion to the bird and was held straight back and not flared. The wings were short and rounded, accipiter type, proportionate to the body. The head appeared fairly small with the prominent white superciliary line showing. Flight was direct as it passed over my location. As the bird was flying toward the River some distance from me I noticed it had a bluish-gray back and upper wing surfaces. No voice was heard.

Similar species and how eliminated: This was a very light breasted bird with no reddish showing on its breast. Bird was large, almost as large as Red-tailed Hawk with pale gray on breast and dark gray above. Bird also had large white stripe above the eye, eliminating all other species.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: bright overcast, sun ^{light} coming over from back of me as I viewed bird. I was facing North bird flew from NE to SW of my position. View at approx. 50' to 60' at closest as it flew over at tree-top level. View with 7x35 Bausch + Lomb binoculars. Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen several Goshawks recently and have seen a greater number of Coopers and lots of Sharp-shinned Hawks. References and persons consulted before writing description: None.

How long before field notes made? 15 or 20 min. this form completed? 6 hours

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