

NORTHERN GOSHAWK (1)

Big Creek Lake, Polk County

January 15, 1983 3:30 p.m.

Description: A large accipiter. Plain dark gray-blue back. White underparts barred with pale gray. Dark gray crown. White eyebrow line, dark cheek. Very long, rounded tail. Fast, direct, steady flight.

Behavior: Flew from grassland and hedgerow area across road where we were sitting to a grove of trees. Another large accipiter was flying over the grassland but at a distance that we were unable to make a positive identification.

Light: Late afternoon sun behind observers

Equipment: 7 x26 binoculars
7 x 26 binoculars
8 x 35 binoculars

Distance from bird: 75'--300'

Books consulted: none

Observers: Tanya and Don Bray
B.J. and Sharon Rose

Written from notes taken at time of sighting