

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Goshawk How many? 1Location? East River Valley Park, Ames, IowaType of habitat? Floodplain woodlot next to skunk RiverWhen? date(s): Nov. 3, 1982 time: 8:20 AM toWho? your name and address: Richard S. Bennett, 1231 Stafford Ave., Amesothers with you: none, Jogging alone on park trailsothers before or after you: none seen

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.

While jogging on a trail near the Skunk River I first saw the hawk as it glided down across the trail in front of me (about 20 feet away). The first features observed were a hawk-like bill and a distinct, dark band across the eye with a light colored head. I didn't have a chance to see the color of underside. As the hawk flew away into open forest habitat I saw the dark blue-gray coloring over the back, wings and tail. I saw no distinct banding on the tail, except for a faint buffy edge. The wing spread was between 3 and 4 feet. The entire observation lasted less than 10 seconds. Although I didn't see it until it right in front of me, I assumed that it was perched in a dead tree about 10 feet from the trail, and that my approach flushed the bird into the open area over the trail. The bird made no vocalizations.

Similar species and how eliminated: Only other ~~bird~~ bird that size with a dark eye band would be an osprey, but the hawk was not that large & the back was definitely a blue-gray color. Also, wrong habitat.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: No binocs
Daylight, no clouds. The bird was observed at 20 ~~ft~~ ft away until it flew into woods (~100 ft)

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Saw Goshawk (along with many other hawks) at Hawk Ridge, Duluth, Minn. on Sept 25.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Ranken, Peterson & Golden Field Guides
Dr. James Dinsmore, Rochelle

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? 9 hours

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