

1984

What species? Northern Goshawk How many? 1Location? Big Creek State Park, Polk CountyType of habitat? overgrown pasture with red cedars + honeylocust next to the lakeWhen? date(s): March 25 time: 5:00 to 5:08Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Mark Proescholdt

others before or after you: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

(1 of 3)  
 We were attempting to flush a Long-eared Owl from a red cedar clump. The owl flew out low, and just behind it, about 10 to 15 feet away a large accipiter, so close the white eye-stripe, dark crown + blue-gray back was easily seen. It flew to a tall cottonwood (almost at the top) (about 1/8 mile away) where it perched 7 or 8 minutes, first with its back to us, then turning to show its lighter gray underparts (too far away to distinguish the barring) + yellow feet + legs. Its long banded tail hung below the branch. It shook itself exposing the fluffy white undertail coverts. It then flew directly over us + across the lake, with its accipiter shape + strong "flap-flap-flap-sail" flight, turning its head one way + another observing below as it flew, appearing solid gray as it passed over.

An exciting look at an adult Goshawk!!

Similar species and how eliminated: nothing similar when we saw at such good advantage the gray accipiter with dark crown + white eye-stripe, the fluffy undertail coverts, + darker gray backDid any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

sun behind us, flushed 10 feet away, flew to cottonwood about 1/8 mile away (approximate) - binoculars (unobstructed view)Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen one Goshawk before this one - other accipiters of courseReferences and persons consulted before writing description: field guides: National Geographic, Robbins + PetersonsHow long before field notes made? made 15 min later this form completed? April 3