

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION
OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

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1. Species: Northern Shrike
2. Number 1
3. Location The south edge of Spencer Iowa along the Little Sioux River.
4. Date: February 5, 1978. 5. Time bird seen: At 2:30 P.M. for 5 min.
6. Description: Robin sized with a slightly longer tail. Also, not quite as chunky as a robin. Its color was light tanish or brown with an indistinct mask and white under the tail. There was an unmistakable barred breast. The wings were darker brown than the breast. The beak was black on top and light on the bottom. I also could see the hook of the top bill.
7. Voice: None.
8. Behavior: The subject left the tree, (it was about 2/3 up in the tree, 15 feet off the ground), and swooped down toward the ground where it flew off with strong rapid wing beats. It lit on a tall weed some 200 yards away.
9. Habitat: The subject was overlooking a weedy riverbottom area from the tree about 15 feet off the ground.
10. Similar Species: Subject was too brown and chunky for a mockingbird. I've seen many mockingbirds in Arizona. I've excluded the Loggerheaded Shrike because of the physical description above, and I have also seen many Loggerheaded Shrikes.
11. Distance: 25-30 feet. (I'm a professional surveyor.)
12. Optical Equipment: 15-60 power spotting scope, set at 15 power.
13. Light: Sunny. Bird was facing the sun with the sun at my back.
14. Previous experience with this species and other similar species: None with this species. I've seen many mockingbirds and Loggerheaded shrikes before.

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15. Other Observers: 3, none are birders.
16. Did the others agree with your identification: Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: None.
18. Books, illustrations, and advice: ~~I used~~ I used a Field Guide To
The Birds by Roger Tory Peterson for pictorial
verification.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this
description: 6 Days.

Signature Dick Bierman Address 901 Harris Street
Date Feb, 11, 1978 City, State Cherokee Iowa