

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

CBC see also TS

1. Species Northern shrike 2. Number 1
 3. Location West of Swan lake on Swan lake road at intersection with county road to the south
and east of Boback Lake rd
 4. Date: 12/16/78 5. Time Bird Seen: ~ 9 AM to 9:03.
 6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): robin sized bird with distinctly brownish dingy breast and black mask with hooked bill and white patches in wings and dark wings; tail. Mask stopped at bill
seen in flight
 7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
 8. Description of behavior: perched on top of tall snag in open, brushy area - when it flew, it swooped directly down to ground & then flew off
 9. Habitat - general:
specific:
 10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
too dingy on the breast and to be a loggerhead shrike - also, the mask stopped at the bill, too chunky to be mockingbird - also, hooked bill rather than slender one.
 11. Distance (how measured)? 50-100 yds. 12. Optical equipment: Leitz 8x40 B trinovids
Bushnell 25x telescope
 13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
sky clear - light good - sun directly behind me.
 14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
I've seen several n. shrikes here and in Mass. have had ample opportunity to observe mockingbirds; loggerhead shrikes in Fla.
 15. Other observers:
Tom Staedt, R. Williams, M. N. Brown
 16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes.
 17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
Staedt & I agreed.
 18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Robbins & Zemon - no influence
 19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? several hours
- Signature: Carol S. Newton Address: 408 Wales St
Date: 12/17/78 City, State: Journe City IA 52240