

Field Notes

Species: Northern Shrike

Number: 1

Location: Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co., Iowa

Date: 7 Feb., 1982

Observers: John C. Robinson and Joe Schaufenbuel  
(Ames) (St. Lucas)

Description:

This bird was perched at the top of a tall tree along a steep hillside near a bridge when first sighted. The bird flew as we turned the car around to approach it for a closer look. In flight the large size and heavy, pendulous flight pattern was extremely obvious. It landed about 100 yards away from the bridge. Using a Bushnell Spacemaster telescope with a 20x lens the large, prominently hooked bill was easily discernible, although no additional field marks could be identified with the exception of the lack of any brown color in the plumage. The bird flew again before we could approach it on foot.