

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Loggerhead Shrike 2. Number 1  
3. Location Coralville reservoir ~~just~~ west of Green Castle, ~~just west of Green Castle~~  
4. Date: DEC 18 1978 5. Time Bird Seen: between 9:30<sup>am</sup> and 10:00<sup>am</sup>

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 flatter bulkier head and more compact body perched horizontally on a tree top. Dark wings and tail, no markings noticed in either wings or tail. white (light) breast, light gray back not quite as light as the breast.

I paid alot of attention to the eye mask on this bird. The mask was easily visible, very dark and seemed to extend from behind the eye right on out through the beak and around the beak with a narrow line continuing across the upper mandible.



EXCUSE THE drawing but I was trying to show that the mask sort of poked into and around the beak

7. Description of voice, if heard: Not heard

8. Description of behavior: perched in top of tall bare tree. sudden very rapid departure to the NE

9. Habitat - general: open country near river, scattered tree stands and individual trees.  
specific: single bare tree at least 40yds from nearest trees.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

The obvious mask on this bird so contrasted with the mask of a Northern Shrike seen only a little over an hour earlier that this bird seemed to have to be a Loggerhead.

11. Distance (how measured)? estimated

~~50-60 yds~~  
50-60 yds

12. Optical equipment:

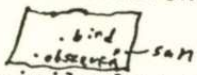
7x35mm Bushnell binoculars

should eliminate an adult northern

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

Clear sky full sun on bird

both bird and sun to my right



14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

Limited but very good observations of Loggerheads.

two sightings of Northern - one about an hour previous to this sighting.

15. Other observers: Carol Newton

Mr. Mr Brown

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Carol Newton

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Birds of North America

A Field Guide to the Birds

(Eastern)

Peterson more so in this case, the description was done, the book was used for similar species comparison. Peterson points out that the lower mandible on the Northern Shrike is lighter - I was looking at this area of the bird and didn't notice anything like that.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?  
I took some notes the afternoon of the sighting and again in that evening.

Signature: Thomas J Stuart

Address: 931 N. Summit

Date: Dec. 25 1978

City, State: Iowa City, Ia