

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Lanius excubitor - Northern Shrike 2. Number 1
3. Location Park area of Squaw Crk Park, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
4. Date: 3/27/80 5. Time Bird Seen: 12:30 to 12:35

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):

Large, robust appearing shrike, being paler over entire body than Loggerhead Shrike - Made sure to ^{observe} see the smaller mask area than ludovicianus. Tail wide, long, and fanlike. Barring on breast not seen presumably because of range, although I have seen it in other birds of greater range. Blackish gray cap of ludovicianus non-existent as this bird's crown was nearly whitish.

7. Description of voice, if heard: Not heard - Did not sing

8. Description of behavior: Bird was perched in sapling on the topmost branch nearly 8 ft off ground, repeatedly flew from perch to ground and back up again to either same perch or one

9. Habitat - general: Wood edge Large field (ski hill) with scattered saplings & mod. length grass, with woods surrounding on 3 sides nearby. Did not see it eat anything but presumably did so on ground. -

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: specific: Would not be loggerhead because of whitishness, large robin-sized breast, plumpness. (yet trim) small mask area and whitish crown

11. Distance (how measured)? 30yds - est.

12. Optical equipment: Tasco 8x40 Binoculars

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

Sun at right angle to bird e.i. sidelighting and south of bird + observer

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Temp 45° Sky Cloudy Conditions: Hazy

Have identified many Northern Shrikes in Colo where it can be found easily some years. Have seen 4 in No. Ill. in between 1976-1978

15. Other observers: None

16. Did the others agree with your identification? N/A

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: N/A

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: None

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? Did not write a description of this bird - Saw 1 in Colo in Feb.

Signature: Tim Gates Address: 523 6th Ave. SE

Date: 6/6/80 City, State: Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

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