

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Northern Shrike How many? 1Location? west side of Big Creek SP, Polk CountyType of habitat? hedgerow adjacent to grassy fieldWhen? date(s): 6 April 1985 time: 4:00 PM to 5:00 PMWho? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames IA 50010others with you: —others before or after you: —

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Bird about the size of a American Robin - body slimmer, tail longer and head and beak distinctly large.

Back and wings - light gray to white color on back wings black with a white wing spot and white edgings on tertials.

Head - a black mask extended from base of bill back just to cover the eye. Mask didn't cross the bill.

Bill - extremely heavy and distinctly hooked. Appeared dark in color

Belly, breast and rump - all snowy white in color. At close range, some faint barring was evident on breast.

legs were black.

Tail - black in color with white around the edge and on tip of tail.

The bird continuously pumped its tail up and down while perched.

The bird also uttered a few squawks and rattles while perched or when alarmed.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Loggerhead Shrike: the faint barring on breast, white rump, heavy, hooked bill, less extensive mask not extending over back and tail pumping when perched eliminate this species.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NoIf yes, explain: —

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Excellent light; clear to partly cloudy sky with sun behind me. The bird was viewed at distances of 5-50 feet. Optical equipment was a ~~B&L~~ B+L 20x Spotting Scope and Nikon 7x22 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen other Loggerhead and Northern Shrikes in Iowa.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

NGS Field Guide to Birds of North America

How long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? 5 hours

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