

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

CBC, see also CN

1. Species Northern Shrike 2. Number 1

3. Location COCAVILLE RESERVOIR EAST OF GREEN CASTLE

4. Date: DEC. 16 1978 5. Time Bird Seen: between 8:30 am and 9:00 am

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, body held more horizontal than robin. However, I first thought this bird was a robin because of the breast coloration. But, looking at the bird through binoculars the breast was seen to be brown not red-orange, the wings and tail were darker than breast and back, and the back was somewhat darker than the breast. The head shape was flat not rounded as would be more likely in a robin and the head was rather bulky. A small dark mask was evident through the eye but not across the beak. The mask was not strongly delineated. This bird was more than likely an immature because of the brownish breast and back, not the white, white-ish gray of an adult.

7. Description of voice, if heard: NOT HEARD

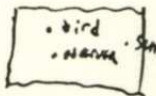
8. Description of behavior: perched at the top of a tree in the open sudden departure, very rapid flight away, NE. dropped somewhat on departure from tree

9. Habitat - general: open country with a number of trees, and tree stands
specific: bare tree on the north west corner of a stand of mixed conifers and deciduous trees

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Robin as indicated above, mockingbird by head shape, contrast in wings-tail, breast back. Both by the habitat (perched in top of tree). Distinguished from Loggerhead by previously mentioned brownish back, breast and non distinctive eye mask.

11. Distance (how measured)? 4070 75 yds est. 12. Optical equipment: 7x35mm binoculars

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
cloudy sky looking north at bird sun on right side, full light on bird's back, side it was facing west, southwest



14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
limited but very clear observations of Loggerhead one rather sighting of Northern

15. Other observers:
Carol Newlon
Mr. & Mrs Brown

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

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

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Birds of North America these influenced the distinction of immature over adult
Field Guide to the Birds (Eastern) and the comparison of similar species.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? I did some notes on the bird around noon and in the evening of the day seen.

Signature: THOMAS J STANT Address: 931 N. SULLIVAN

Date: 12/25/78 City, State: Jourd City Ia.