

NORTHERN SHRIKE (1)

DeSoto Bend National Wildlife Refuge

February 24, 1983

1:30 p.m.

Description: Mockingbird sized but heavier-bodied.  
Whitish rump which contrasted with gray back.  
Dark gray tail feathers tipped with white.  
Underparts whitish; faintly barred.  
Strongly hooked bill had light basal area  
on both upper and lower mandibles. White  
feathers clearly visible at base of upper  
mandible. Black mask narrowed between bill  
and eye.

Behavior: First seen near the ground in a rugosa rose hedge,  
the bird worked his way to the top of the hedge,  
then flew to the top of a cottonwood tree several  
hundred feet away. After moving from tree to  
tree for a few minutes, he flew directly back to  
the rose hedge. This hedge was swarming with  
American Tree Sparrows.

Weather: Very cloudy and overcast.

Distance from bird: 50 to 75 feet at closest point

Equipment: 7 x 26 binoculars                    25x scope  
              6 x 26 binoculars                    20x scope  
              7 x 35 binoculars

Observers; Tanya Bray, Sandy Kovanda, Babs Padelford

Written from notes taken at time of sighting