

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Gray Catbird AOU# 704 How many? 1Location? 420-0914 - 1 1/2 miles West of Hiawatha off Blairs Ferry Rd Linn Co.Type of habitat? Sumac - Blackberry - Multiflora Rose overgrown Pasture w. Small clumps of Hawthorn TreesWhen? date(s): Dec 15 1990 time: 2:30 to 2:30Who? your name and address: Robert Bradley 4291 Ridge Rd NE. Cedar Rapidsothers with you: Steve Demermuthothers before or after you: NONE

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 was seen well by both of us. Mostly a side view. As it came out of the bushes the dark cap was very visible and the black beak showed well.

The overall grey body contrasted with the dark relative long tail and overall size was that of a catbird. I did not see the undertail. The bird was seen emerging from some low bushes (multiflora) and disappeared in a young sumac grove. seen for possibly 2 seconds.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Can't think of anything in this area that resembles a Gray Catbird maybe Junco but way too small.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

Overcast seen at 15' distance 6-7 ft high flying between two brushy areas across a 25 foot clearing

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Catbirds are a common nesting bird in this area and around my house I've also banded a large number of these birds

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Birds of North America

How long before field notes made? on location of bird this form completed? 12-24-90

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