

Unusual Bird Report Form for Christmas Bird Counts

CBC Name (not bird club name): Ames, Iowa CBC Date: 21 DEC 96

Species (include number, age, sex etc. as appropriate): Gray Catbird

Observer: Wolfgang Oesterreich Other observers who saw bird: _____

Description (Describe size, color and pattern above and below, head, bill, tail, wings etc. as needed. Use this space for a drawing if helpful. Include photos if available.):

All gray bird with a black cap. The under tail coverts were reddish brown and the tail dark (black). The bird was about the size of a hoggerhead shrike, but much more slender and with a longer

(will send photo when available)

Sounds made, if any: none made

Conditions of observation (Time of day, weather, duration of observation, distance to bird, optics used, etc.):

~1100 am; observed for ca. 20 minutes; sunny / partly cloudy; distance varied from 4 ft to 10 ft; viewed w/ heica 10x42 binocs & "naked" eyes (T-84N, R-24W, NE 1/4 sec 32)

Behavior and Habitat (What was the bird doing while you watched it? What habitat was it in?):

deciduous woodland - near confluence of Onisk & Squaw Creeks foraging for black berries

Similar Species (What similar species might be in your area in winter? How did you eliminate them from consideration?):

nothing in this area.

(Mockingbird doesn't have black cap, rusty undertail coverts; plus it has white wing patches.)