

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Northern Mockingbird 2. Number 1
  3. Location Lake Red Rock, 1/2 to 1 mile north of dam, along road
  4. Date: January 1, 1983 5. Time Bird Seen: 12:00 to 12:05 P.M.
  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):  
Slender, grayish, long-tailed bird, brown thrasher size, gray back, white underparts, black down tail center, showing white on wings while perched and large white wing patches in flight (larger than a shrike's).  
This was a gray & white bird, with much less black than a shrike shows - no black facial mask, no large amount of black in wings, & a slim bill, not a heavy hooked bill. Even though this was winter, there was no doubt of what it was.
  7. Description of voice, if heard: not singing
  8. Description of behavior: bird flew at a Red-tailed Hawk perched near top of huge bare tree (as if attacking?) then perched near the hawk, before flying.
  9. Habitat - general: river valley of Des Moines R  
specific: edge of wooded creek, open area to the south, huge leafless tree top
  10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
Loggerhead shrike - or northern shrike
  11. Distance (how measured)? 200 yds, approximated
  12. Optical equipment: 4 binoculars among all of us from 6x30 to 7x35 to 10x50
  13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
sunny sky, light behind us with sun shining on bird
  14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
I have seen mockingbirds and Loggerhead shrikes many times
  15. Other observers: Mark Proescholdt, Phyllis Harris, Ramona Sommerlot
  16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
  17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none, to my knowledge
  18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
Roger Tory Peterson's new field guide, & Birds of N. America by Robbins, et al - they merely helped verify what we already knew
  19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? immediately
- Signature: Beth Proescholdt Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: January 6, 1983 City, State: Liscomb, Iowa 50148