

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Grey Catbird How many? 1Location? Iowa CityType of habitat? backyard, suburban, around feedersWhen? date(s): 2 April 1989 time: 10 AM to _____Who? your name and address: Richard Hollis for Janet Hollis 3351 Lower West Branch Rdothers with you: none Iowa City IA 52245others 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.

When I returned from a trip, Janet described told me she had seen a catbird in my absence. I wrote her description down several hours after she told me, which was several hours after she saw the bird.

"Uniformly grey bird - except ~~cap~~ tail and maybe cap which were darker. A slim bird - larger than a ~~robin~~ junco, smaller than a robin. It had a longish tail which was often cocked upwards sort of like a wren's tail, but longer"

She did not describe or remember the cirrus.

When I called her attention to the first catbird that we saw together (also in our yard, but at a more expected date) she said that looks like the bird I saw in April.

She was not aware that it was early.

Similar species and how eliminated:

I discussed some plain birds - ♀ Cowbirds, some female or young grackles, showed her pictures + could not shake her opinion.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain:

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

good light

20'

Previous experience with species and similar ones: She has seen numerous catbirds on walks to Hickory Hill etc.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? * see above this form completed? _____

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