

12/4/79

Hi —

Hope you can make this out — I'm making copies of the 2nd sheet you sent for future reports — don't miss the stuff on the back —

Weather Report —

astonishingly mild — perfect September weather for people but bad for catching warblers — no rain for 22 days —

heavy October snow while trees still in leaf — either the 1st or the 8th — Council Bluffs all but immobilized by downed trees — birdwatching at a standstill but feeders busy with "locals" —

the rest of October very mild
with the exception of a bitter
wind on Halloween -

first two weeks of November
very lovely - highs 50's + 60's -
southerly winds - heavy
rain but no snow on
November 21 - just a skiff
of snow on Thanksgiving
morning -

cold front on November 28, 29
our first taste of winter -

a shirtsleeve fall!
many fields of corn still
unpicked the 3rd week in
November
Janet Greer

Documentation

12/4/79

Goshawk

De Soto Bend NWR, Harrison Co
November 17, 1979
approx: 11:30 - 11:50 a.m.

Very large accipiter perched on a horizontal branch in a dense woods with thick understory. The size of a Red-tailed Hawk. Back rather uniformly brown. Tail long and barred. Breast immaculate white with long, vertical splotches. Brilliant, spotless white featheration at the base of the underside of the tail. Eyes yellow. Throat creamy abruptly ending at the white of the breast. Pronounced eye stripe flaring behind the eye towards the crown. Under side of wings heavily lined with stripes opposing the marks of the breast.

The bird knew we were observing and was very reluctant to move. It moved twice - once toward us - once away from us - each time perching on a large horizontal limb in a mature tree. The next day, I wondered if the bird were infected with fowl cholera which is known to be on the refuge, but at the time I was only delighted with such a long, close sighting of this bird!

Distance: 120 ft - pure guess.
I could have hit him with a stone.

Optical Equipment: Bushnell 10x50
Tasco 7x35
Zeiss ?

20x Balscope used
but not needed

Light: Noon on a cloudless day

Previous Experience: 1 sighting in Colorado

Similar Species: Not a Cooper's Hawk!
and definite eyestripe.

Other Observers: Marge Gaf
Waterloo, IOWA
Anne Bohlen
Portland, ORE.

agreed with identification

Books consulted:

Everything in our packs.

The Audubon Society Field Guide
to North American Birds
both East and West

Peterson - both East and West

Robbins

"Birds of Prey of Wisconsin"

"Eastern Hawk Watching"

a manual for the Identification of
the Birds of Minnesota and Neighboring
States - Roberts

When the Documentation was written:
10 days later when I
realized a documentation was
required.