

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

Species Golden Eagle, imm. 2. Number: 1

Location n. of Babcock L. access, Coralville Reservoir, Johnson Co.

Date: July 28 5. Time Bird seen: 1:25 to 2:10 PM

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): Large raptor, aquiline profile evident when head turned (large bill relative to head); all rich brown, except 2 white flecks in neck, somewhat lighter back, large white patch at base of secondaries and another at base of inner primaries; proximal rectrices white, with irregular dark terminal band; tail rel. large, fan-shaped when spread; cere and base of beak yellowish; tip dark; feet and talons

Description of voice, if heard: not heard

Description of behavior: perched in dead trees, occasionally panting, yawning, or preening, or scratching; flapped wings and flew into another tree

Habitat - general: reservoir tail waters after some 10 min. in the first
specific: dead trees in west end of Coralville Reservoir floodplain

Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Buteo: size, profile. Bald Eagle, imm: distribution of white feathers, notably white tail base much more distinct and extensive in golden

Distance (how measured)? est. 1000-1500 ft. 12. Optical equipment: 20-45x Bushnell zoom scope

Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): partial overcast, good visibility (no head waves until 2 PM); sun-obscure - bird angle 150-170°

Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: seen imm. Golden Eagle in Iowa in March '75, and numerous
Other observers: imm. Bald Eagles (none in July)

Did the others agree with your identification?

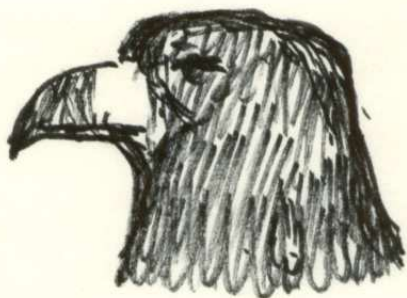
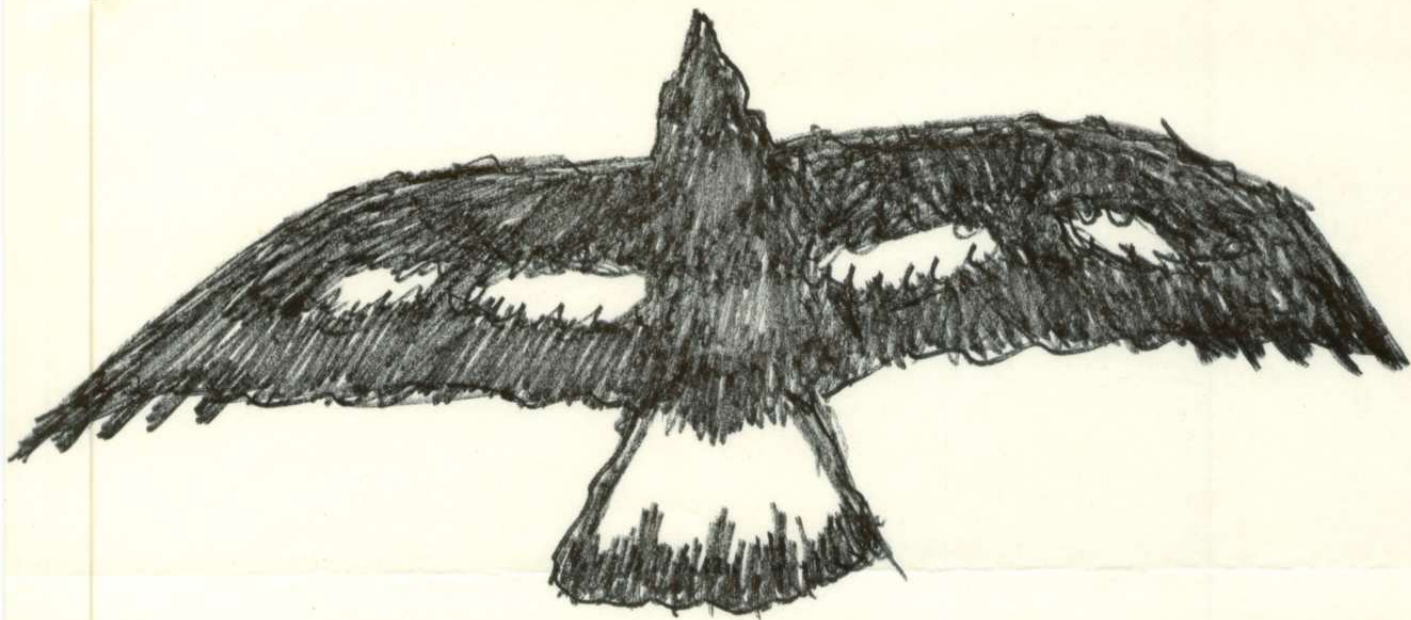
Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Robbins, after form was filled out.

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 3:10 PM, 7/28/79

Signature: N.S. HALMI Address: R#6

Date: 7-28-79 City, State: IOWA CITY, IA 52246



Imm. Golden Eagle
Babcock L. area of
Coralville Reservoir,
July 28, 1979