

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What Species? Golden Eagle - Immature How many? One
 Location? First bridge in Bridgeview area - Rathbun Lake -
 N. Eron Place on County Rd 142
 Type of Habitat? Open Water with some ice - shoreline
 Treed.
 When? date(s)? 3-20-1986 time: 9:10 AM to 9:30 AM
 Who? your name and address: Marjorie Heusinkveld, 840 South
 Park, Centerville, IA 52544
 others with you:
 none
 others before or after you: AETER - Tom Johnson - Centerville

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

larger than Buteo - similar in size to Bald Eagles in area,
 Head had slight golden sheen as the sun touched it;
 Uniformly dark brown on breast, belly & back, large
 white patches base of primaries, wide white
 tail band with wide terminal black band. Could see
 feathering on legs. Bird was catching thermals - low
 over road, then soaring up high - then down again,
 in same area all of observation time.

Similar species and how eliminated: Immature Bald Eagle. There
 were 3 immature Bald Eagles "playing" in area at same time.
 They were more mottled with white through wings - no white bands
 Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO
 on tails; one
 was beginning to show white
 on neck

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and
 optical equipment: Full sun - Calm morning - Approx 90 Feet
 above road to several hundred in sky. 7X33 wide angle binoculars
 Previous experience with this and similar species: naked eye
 (over)

References and persons consulted before writing description:
 "Peterson's Field Guide"; "Birds of N. America";
 How long before field notes made? made at time of viewing

How long before this form completed? 4-28-1986

I have observed many adult and ~~the~~ immature Bald Eagles in The Lake area - this bird was different, I grew up in Wyoming and frequently observed both adult + immature Golden Eagles, I knew this to be a Golden Eagle almost immediately.

These species: Golden Eagle - Immature young, 0 x 2
Locations: First bridge in Bridge area - Rattlesnake Lake
N. E. corner of County Rd 145
Type of habitat: Open water with some ice - skunk lime
Trend:
Date observed: 3-20-1982
Time: P. 10 AM to P. 3:30 AM
Name, sex and address: Margaret Hersick, 840 South
L. Park, Catalina, IA 52540

Notes before or after you: Peter - Tom Johnson - Catalina
Notes:
Describe the bird, including only what you observed. Include
sex, stage, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back,
tail, wing, breast, belly, underparts, legs, feet). Also
mention voice and behavior.
Compare the bird to Bald Eagle in size to Bald Eagle in size
Head had slight golden sheen as the sun touched it.
Primarily dark brown on breast, belly + back, large
white patches base of primaries. Wide white
tail band with wide terminal black band. Could see
feathering on legs. Bird was watching humans - low
over road, then soaring up high - then down again.
in some area all of observation time.

There were 3 immature Bald Eagles "playing" in one of some three.
They were more mottled with white through wings - no white bands
on some degree or have reservations about the tail, one
was beginning to show white
on neck

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and
optical equipment: Full sun - calm morning - April 2, 1981
above road to a small brushy area. 7 X 35 wide angle prism
Previous experience with this and similar species: nested 7 x
reference and photos provided before writing description:
(Thomas's Field Guide) Birds of A. America;
how long before field notes made at time of viewing
how long before this form completed: 4-02-1982